

**Canada's Gay
Community
Magazine**

**April 2005
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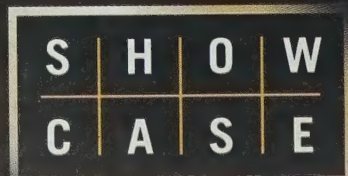
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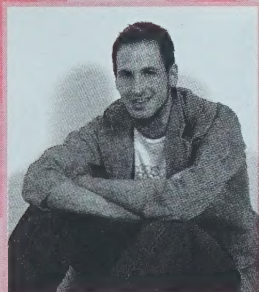


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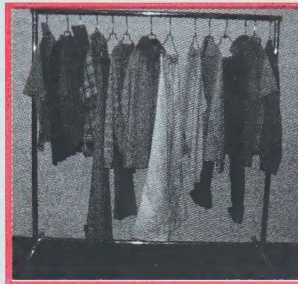
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On The Cover:
Leland wears "Tuck" jeans and a screened T, both by Chip & Pepper, with an embroidered distressed cotton blazer by Firetrap. All clothing courtesy of Smyth & Kang. Cover and credit image shot by Terence Leung on location at Urban Sky Studio.

what's where



SPRINGTIME FRESH

Historically, the "rack" has been an implement of torture, but this season it's a source of endless delight, filled with a wide variety of silhouettes in a rainbow of colours. Lincoln Phillip helps us count to (top) ten with his picks of some of the hottest—and coolest—looks for spring and summer.

COME INTO MY PARLOUR...

Peep shows? Vaudevillian hijinks? Fannie Nipplebottom? A potentially racy silent film contest? Must be Le Boudoir, one of Montréal's most exuberant and theatrical events. Brad Malmberg sits down with Fannie Nippl—er, Miriam Ginestier—to find out more...



OUT FOR KICKS

Tearing up the soccer field is just one way for sports-minded members of Toronto's GLBT community to get out and have some fun, but there's also a host of others. *Outlooks* contributor Lino di Nallo has the low-down on "pink participation" for this spring and summer.

GOLDEN GREAT

The nicest thing about leaving your heart in San Francisco is that the situation encourages you to go back again and again to visit it. And, being a continental destination, this colourful and charismatic city is really only a hop, skip and a boarding pass away.



April 2005

Pride week is for sissies.

We're really going to need the entire month!

June 2005 is Pride Month in Calgary, and there are all kinds of events going on throughout the month. Check our website regularly and don't miss a thing! You can also call 262-3410 for information on volunteer or sponsorship opportunities.

Get involved and celebrate! Have an entry in the Parade... be a vendor at the Street Festival... or just dance the night away.

Saturday, June 11th (8:00pm)
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Sunday, June 12th (12:00 noon)
PRIDE PARADE - along 17th Avenue SW

Sunday, June 12th (until 5:00pm)
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Dear Editor:

A friend in Calgary whose wedding I will be attending this summer wrote and told me of yet another ridiculous action being taken by the Klein government in Alberta. Seems that Ralph is sending special certificates to all couples who are getting married in Alberta this summer to commemorate the province's 100th birthday.

Oh, wait, not *all* couples. Of course, Ralph has stipulated that same-sex couples will not be receiving the certificates, regardless of whether or not they'll be allowed to marry. Gotta love that drunk-in-public a**hole, don't ya?

So, what Teejay is suggesting is telling anyone you know who will be getting married in Alberta this year—queer, straight, whatever—to send those damn certificates back to the government in protest. Or perhaps there will even be a big bonfire of the documents on the front lawn of the legislature. Whatever. Just let the Klein government know that discrimination on all levels—but especially the institutional level—is just bloody wrong.

J. Pressick

Ontario

The Editor Responds:

Of course Mr. Klein is going to go out of his way to deny same-sex couples his corny little certificates—given his legendary pettiness, I wouldn't be surprised if that element was built in right from the start in order to make a point. Bottom line, gays and lesbians are not going to leave the province *en masse* just because that neanderthal (and his party) remains in power. The fact that he would even do such a thing demonstrates, I think, the unease our presence inspires, so I think it's wise to make that fact even more known through letters, e-mails, faxes, calls, etc. from all equality-minded Albertans. Anyone care to take up the torch as Mr. Pressick has suggested? Ralph Klein's contact info follows.

Southern Alberta Office of the Premier

Edmonton fax: (780) 427-1349

2nd. Floor McDougall Centre

Calgary fax: (403) 297-4276

456 6th Street S.W.

E-mail: premier@gov.ab.ca

Calgary, AB

T2P 4E8

Attention Outlooks:

Thankyouthankyouthankyouthankyou! I just wanted to let you know how great it was to see a more mature (ie: non-twink) model as your March Don't You Wish? guy. Does this mean we'll be seeing more of his kind in future issues? I hope so, because "Cam"—and guys like him—are totally hot!

J.D.

Calgary

The Editor Responds:

If we can find suitable "mature" men, we'll shoot 'em, although in our eight-year history it has been quite tough to find "non-twink" guys who are brave enough to be photographed for our Don't You Wish? section. If there are some of you out there reading this, by all means send in your contact info and a few photos.

Dear Outlooks,

Thanks very much for reprinting Bill Kaufmann's piece from the *Calgary Sun* entitled "Bully Pulpiters". Perhaps Kaufmann has forgotten that Bishop Fred Henry is a pedophile-priest-protector himself [the *Sun* reported in February of 2002 that Bishop Henry was well aware of a priest's past conviction as a sex offender when he authorized the man's transfer to Calgary, without disclosing any of this information to members of the congregation in which the priest was placed]. Henry lost all "moral authority" to judge gays when he did this so, to quote Elsie Wayne, maybe he should "just shut up about it".

G. Olds

via e-mail ▼

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS

Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:

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Getting a read on our situation

By Roy Heale



Over the years I have learned that, occasionally, a leisure time pursuit can suddenly turn into something much more serious in nature, usually at a time when you least expect it. This was reinforced recently during a weekend getaway to San Francisco, where I was relaxing with a good book in the beautiful garden at the Parker Guest House, surrounded by spring flowers and greenery. It was the last place I expected to be thinking about the "trials and tribs" of Canada's equality issues, let alone discussing them.

At this cozy, gay Edwardian guesthouse, guests are encouraged to mingle with one another, be it over breakfast or a glass of wine at their daily complimentary reception in the afternoon. In my case, it was while I was relaxing in the beautiful garden, taking in the rays that I knew had just abandoned my hometown up in Canada. Several other guests had noticed that I never seemed to put my book down, and wondered what about this bit of holiday fare was so engrossing. On this particular afternoon, both a delightful lesbian from Australia and a gay man from Kansas (yes, Dorothy, the yellow brick road stretches all the way to the City by the Bay!) politely interrupted my reading to inquire what the novel was about.

As it turned out, my simple explanation started a very serious conversation that wound up lasting the better part of a full hour. To give you some necessary background, the book I was reading was *Amuse Bouche* by Canadian gay author Anthony Bidulka, a well-written murder mystery centering around two gay men about to be married in Saskatoon. The intrigue begins when one partner disappears on the morning of his wedding, and the other enlists the help of gay private eye Russell Quant in order to get to the bottom of things. To me this was just a fun and suspenseful distraction on my short vacation; however, to my newfound friends it was a powerful example of just how different things are here in Canada, and how our own GLBT

culture is changing and evolving to reflect the times in which we live.

The fact that we already had books in print with same-sex marriage as the main storyline utterly amazed these two foreigners, and I didn't have the heart to tell them that the book had been released almost two years earlier! Although they were from two different countries, both of them viewed same-sex marriage as a dream, far off on the horizon—certainly not the sort of thing they would read about in their own GLBT literature, even in the genre of fantasy.

As a Commonwealth compadre, my lesbian friend hoped that, if Canada legislated a new Federal Marriage Act, it might make it easier to lobby the Australian government to follow suit. However, Dorothy's friend from Kansas said the only hope in the not-so-United States would be civil unions, which essentially meant second-class citizenship and a long, drawn-out state-by-state battle over the next decade or more. Our conversation covered the full spectrum of pros and cons, not to mention government attitudes. One thing we *did* all agree upon was the fact that this a reality now in Canadian culture, despite all the political lobbying and threats of corporate boycotts to such companies as Famous Players, which ran a series of pro-equal marriage ads along with their usual trailers a few months back.

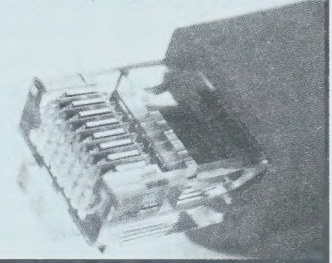
They understood that, if it is now legal in seven provinces and one territory, the final outcome is obvious—regardless of what is ultimately decided in parliament. At this juncture, no matter what the federal government does they have no authority to change or reverse provincial laws. As well, they cannot automatically divorce the large number of Canadian gay couples and foreign visitors who possess perfectly legal marriage certificates.

When all was said and done, the Australian headed off to find a good book of her own and the man from Kansas left to find Barbary Lane in the Russian Hill neighbourhood, made famous by Armistead Maupin in his *Tales of the City* book series. I didn't have the heart to tell him it was an imaginary street created in the mind of the author, mainly because I knew that, in a city like San Francisco, he would enjoy the search for this fictitious "mecca" just as much as being able to actually find it. After our very intense and impromptu discussion, my new friends and I parted company with the two of them feeling more optimistic about their future and me feeling even more proud than ever to be a Canadian.

For updates on the current progress of the new marriage act and information on how you can help make history in our own little corner of the world, take time to visit www.equal-marriage.ca. ▼

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OUTLOOKS

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Publisher Roy Heale
Copy Editor Michael Wright
Associate Editor David Crosson
Graphics David Crosson
Graphics Consultant Terence Leung
Sales Executive Cap Peters
Toronto Sales Michael Wile
Webmaster Tyler Cranston
Proofreaders E. Colleen Hanna
Contributing Writers:

Charlene Lichtenstein, John Coulbourn, David Crosson, Lino DiNallo, Shaun Proulx, Brad Malmberg, John Ayres, Lincoln Phillip, Terence Leung, Peter Carlyle-Gordge, Gerard MacMullin, Lorne Neudorf

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Outlooks Mailing Address:

Box 439, Suite 100,
 1039 17th Avenue S.W.
 Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2
 Phone: (403) 228-1157
 Fax: (403) 228-7735
 Toll-Free Fax: 1-877-885-6657

Outlooks Toronto:

Local (416) 531-1483
 michael@outlooks.ca
 Toll-Free (866) 645-0113

Calgary Office Toll-Free:
 1-888-228-1157

Primary E-mail: main@outlooks.ca

Editorial: editor@outlooks.ca

Sales: sales@outlooks.ca

Graphics: graphics@outlooks.ca

World Wide Web: www.outlooks.ca

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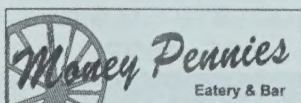
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A bloody nuisance

By Lorne Neudorf

On December 9, 2004, the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal accepted my complaint against the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and the B.C. Minister of Health. It will now be examined by a member of the Tribunal to ensure that it can proceed under provincial jurisdiction. The complaint alleges that CBS's donor screening policies violate B.C.'s human rights law in respect to sexual orientation. Every prospective male donor is asked, "Have you had sex with a man, even one time since 1977?" Those answering affirmatively to this question are entered into a database and are permanently barred from donating blood.

Through this policy, CBS concludes that even healthy gay and bisexual men are unfit to donate blood. All sexual activity between two men is labelled "high risk", and put into the same category as injecting street drugs, according to CBS's internal exclusion criteria documents. The policy is unconcerned about specific sexual activities or whether safe sex methods were used. Additionally, no consideration is provided for males in long-term monogamous relationships. Same-sex couples can legally marry and adopt children in B.C., but are denied the right to fully participate in their communities because of this blanket prohibition.

Having been in place for over a decade, this policy has failed to reflect the changing face of HIV/AIDS, as new risk patterns and groups have emerged in the past several years. The 2005 U.N. AIDS report found that, for the first time, half of all HIV/AIDS cases were female. The National Institutes of Health reported that more than ninety percent of all new infections resulted from heterosexual intercourse. In the United States, African-American and Hispanic women account for more than eighty-two percent of female AIDS cases, while comprising less than twenty-five percent of the population. The screening questions have not kept pace with these new realities.

When the broad exclusion of gay and bisexual men was implemented, the transmission of HIV was not well understood. We now know that certain sexual activities involve much more risk than other activities. Instead of bluntly rejecting members of particular sexual orientations, screening questions could be developed to determine a prospective donor's individual risk. Asking about specific recent sexual activities would have the desired effect of identifying and reducing risk to the blood supply. Furthermore, this would provide a more accurate assessment of risk while allowing healthy gay and bisexual men to donate much-needed blood. As it presently stands, a heterosexual male could engage in all kinds of risky sexual behaviour, and after waiting several months he would be allowed to donate. A man who had a solitary same-sex experience more than twenty-seven years ago would be permanently rejected.

In 2001, CBS implemented a new type of HIV testing technology called Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT). This type of testing detects viral particles themselves and has proven to be incredibly effective. All donated blood is screened using both traditional antibody testing and NAT. According to CBS, this reduces the window period (the time before a new infection can be detected) to approximately thirteen days. Yet by banning men who have had sex with another man since 1977, CBS assumes that the window period for gay and bisexual men is twenty-seven years and counting.

This policy has far-reaching effects. When heterosexual donors are asked this question, the negative stereotype that gay and bisexual men are diseased and unhealthy is reinforced. Even the loving intimacy expressed in a same-sex relationship would be perceived as something undesirable. This policy could also have the effect of undermining safe sex efforts in the gay community. Because CBS remains indifferent to protected or unprotected sex, individuals may question the effectiveness of safe sex methods.

In its response to the complaint, CBS argues that this policy has nothing to do with sexual orientation. It claims that men who have sex with men are rejected regardless of their identification as heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual. However, this response ignores the effects of the screening policies. Case law indicates that the effects of a policy or action can give rise to a violation of human rights legislation. Upon practical

examination, this policy has the precise effect of identifying virtually all gay and bisexual men. If CBS's argument was accepted, a landlord could refuse to rent an apartment to a male who "had sex with another man, even one time since 1977" and claim immunity from human rights law. In any event, the argument that CBS does not target members of a specific sexual orientation is likely to be rejected. Internal CBS exclusion criteria documents show that "bisexual men" are identified as a category of persons who will be permanently rejected.

Many leading HIV/AIDS experts have aligned against this policy, believing that it does more harm than good. Some have pointed out that gay and bisexual men can donate their organs but not their blood. Both carry the risk of transferring communicable diseases to the recipient. Why can gay men donate one but not the other? Perhaps the reason is that organs are in such demand that people are willing to take the risk to give them a chance to live longer. The demand for blood has apparently not yet reached this level of urgency. Or perhaps there is a more political reason at work here. After the Red Cross exited the blood scene in the face of mass litigation, CBS went into damage control mode: it clamped down and refused to budge on this policy, perhaps in an attempt to restore the public's faith in the blood supply. By exploiting stereotypes of gay and bisexual men and excluding them from the donation process, people may begin to trust the blood supply once again.

Are the rights of healthy gay and bisexual men unfairly paying the price for a decade-long publicity campaign? ▼

Lorne Neudorf is a law student in Victoria, British Columbia with a keen interest in politics.

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The caring continues

By Terence Leung

For one night in Calgary, the tragedy and struggle that comes with AIDS can be alleviated slightly with a celebration for those who continue to fight the good fight and support the cause. AIDS Calgary Awareness Association is launching their Twelfth Annual Calgary Cares extravaganza, an event responsible for raising funds necessary to support those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as prevention and awareness programs in the Calgary community.

"We're inviting people to care about the work we do," says Susan Cress, executive director for AIDS Calgary. "It [Calgary Cares] clearly demonstrates that people in Calgary care. And it's a night where we get to celebrate the people in a passionate and caring space, and that's extremely important. It helps us remember what AIDS Calgary is really about, creating compassion amongst chaos, despair and greed."

Despite this gathering to show support for the 22,000 people in Calgary who either carry the burden of living HIV/AIDS or are directly affected by it, Cress says there is still much work to be done in all communities to raise awareness.

"There's a perception out there that there are these wonderful new drugs to solve all the problems, but people's quality of life on those drugs is compromised," says Cress. "Then there's the

stigma and discrimination with people with HIV and it's a fact our clients bring in. We've had clients come in and they said when they get a doctor or general practitioner they may get turned away. There's still an exceptional amount of fear, and people living with HIV are under-resourced."

On average, people with HIV/AIDS receive about \$800 per month from the Alberta government, a difficult amount with which to make ends meet when possible discrimination from employers, combined with the physical toll on the body, makes it tough to earn a stable income.

"We provide for some of people's most basic needs and that's something we have let the Calgary community forget," says Cress. "I had a support worker say to me we have six bus tickets left for people to get to and from work or groceries. And that has to last until the end of month. The funds raised from this initiative help AIDS Calgary provide for those living with AIDS and HIV."

Although Alberta's redneck reputation sometimes teeters more towards reality than perception, Cress says the issue of HIV/AIDS is clearly not contained in the prairies.

"It's a really interesting time—specifically in Alberta—although I think geography does not have much to do with it. It doesn't matter whether you're living with HIV in Calgary, Toronto or Montréal. I am confident regardless of location, people will face discrimination and stigma," she says.

"What I think is true, when you look at Alberta and the political leaning of our province, it wouldn't be hard to see people in a disadvantaged situation who don't receive support—and many of our clients are on some kind of social assistance. There's the ongoing need to manage the psychological and social aspects of it, such as the type of discrimination when your employer is afraid to work with someone with HIV or what it's like to tell your parents that you have HIV. So it's really quite significant the work we do."

Slightly weathered from a cold and the constant day-to-day struggle of finding happy endings for everyone, the Calgary Cares event is one surefire bright spot on Cress' calendar.

"It'll be a sultry evening and it's going to be fantastic," she enthuses. "We're going to have the world's largest boudoir; from the minute you walk in the door you'll be tantalized with maids and butlers, and let's just say that the room will come alive."

This year's event, with a stage show entitled "Pillow Talk", is expected to attract about 1,200 attendees, and is highly shrouded in secrecy. The location is kept secret with ticket holders picked up at various points and then transported to the "world's largest boudoir."

"We want more mystery involved," explains a coy Jocelyn Flanagan, event manager for Pillow Talk. "We don't want to tell where the largest boudoir is or else too many people will come."

Last year's event raised over \$160,000, while solidifying \$140,000 in partnered media

support, gift donations and editorial coverage.

For the last few years, Calgary Cares has garnered numerous awards, with FFWO readers voting it the best fundraising event in Calgary for the past four years.

With an exotic show, silent auction, raffle, drinks and food, the event promises not only to be fun, it will also offer an element of haute couture, featuring exclusive clothing from many of Calgary's fashion boutiques including Shae Barry's Does It Come In Black (DICIB).

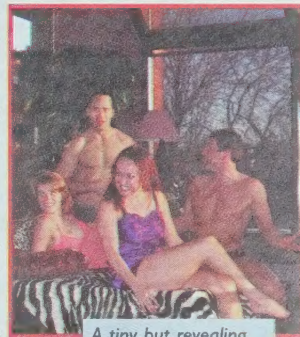
"We do have an increased fashion element as opposed to the past few years, as well as bringing in fashion elements from boutiques across the city," says Flanagan. "But I think it's a celebration of mind and body, really. I think when you see this, you will feel this is a celebration of life, playfulness and fun. With a stage show called Pillow Talk, it's about what people say and any spin on what you may say to your pillow."

Still putting together the final touches on the event, Flanagan is grateful for the contributions of numerous volunteers and is hopeful that, year after year, Calgary Cares increases awareness of HIV/AIDS to a healthy level.

"It's about pushing the envelope, but really the awareness comes from within. Working with over 400 volunteers, those people who have put in countless hours have much more awareness. And they are the people who are truly responsible for getting the word out. The people we're affecting, they've become ambassadors of the cause," says Flanagan.

"The key to this is that we call it Calgary Cares for a reason, because it's about bringing Calgary together, with different communities in the same room, and it's the only event where you'll get such a cross mix of audience members."

Tickets for Calgary Cares, which takes place April 23, are available through TicketMaster at a cost of \$125. Who will be there and where will it be? That's for the event organizers to know and you to find out. For slightly more information on this top secret show, visit www.calgarycares.com.



A tiny but revealing peek into "Calgary's largest boudoir"



AIDS Calgary Executive Director Sue Cress tells the assembled crowd at the event's media launch just how important Calgary Cares is to her agency's clients

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After many years of being a fabulous fixture in such clubs as the Parkside, Myrt's, the Cha-Cha Palace and Off-Centre, Verna (AKA Boo) decided it was time to 'quit her night job' and pursue other things during the day. Outlooks and all of her many co-workers over the years wish her well.

**Mapping Out The Future**

Pride Calgary Co-Chair Linda Craig with Columbia Fun Maps' John Boychuk, following the formal summit presentations.

**Survivor Sunalta?**

Despite Boo's departure, an enthusiastic gang remains at Money-Pennies. From left to right are: Oran; proprietor Lorrie Murphy; Jason (kneeling); Trevor and Karen.

**CALGARY CARES MEDIA LAUNCH**
METROPOLITAN GRILL**Starting The Evening On A High Note**

Singer Zoë Theodore helped kick-off the media launch with vocal stylings that were both soulful and soaring.

**Fine Feathered Friends**

In attendance at the Calgary Cares launch were (from left): contributing designer Shae Barry, of D.I.C.I.B.; show producer Jocelyn Flanagan, of E=MC2; and AIDS Calgary Executive Director Sue Cress. Judging by the looks on all their faces they were well pleased with the turnout.

**Gotcha!**

Models engaging in a bit of boudoir horeseplay offered a glimpse of things to come at this year's gala event. Wonder what Rock Hudson and Doris Day would say about all this...

**Does That Make Him Pimp Mommy?**

Fever Co-producer Todd cosies up to bar manager David Donald. Ain't it cute how the "heat lines" on the Fever banner look like they're coming out of David's head?

Night Off...Kinda

With Robbie spinning things into control, regular DJ Eric had an opportunity to get a little "face time" with his customers.

**Fever, Saturday Night**

Robbie Rodrigues demonstrates how generating a true fever is all in the wrist.

**Tattoo's Needle**

DJ Marc Tattoo, imported for the night from Vancouver by Different Strokes Swim Club, keeps the room "spinning" to generate a true Mardi Gras spirit.

**Colour Guard**

Well, they don't look menacing, as such, but we dare you to try and ruffle their feathers. Tempting, isn't it?

**Well, It Ain't The Three Tenors!**

Headline performer Jameison Eakin (left) with Solar Cafe co-owner Eric and pal Charity.

MARDI GRAS DANCE
HILLHURST-SUNNYSIDE
COMMUNITY HALL**Bra Burners?**

"D" and Lisa strike a blow for women's lib with their colourful "accessories".

PRIDE CALGARY/ GLCSA SUMMIT
OLD 'Y' COMMON ROOM**A View From The Summit**

Members of the Pride Calgary Board of Directors were on hand, along with representatives from the GLCSA and a variety of community groups and businesses. Not only was a lot of ground covered, a good time, it seems, was had by all.

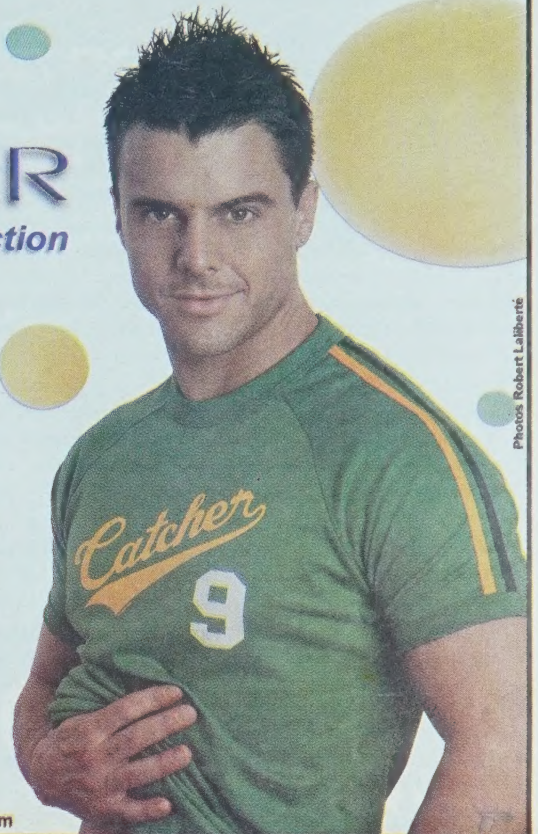
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Local Calgary Musician Jameison Eakin performs in support of his new album On The Edge.



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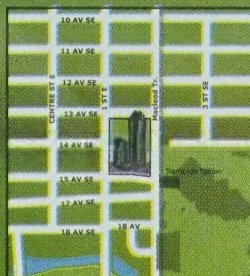
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REVIEW

By John Ayres



Emma Thompson as the angel

From its glorious, sweeping opening credits I knew I was going to like the HBO version of *Angels in America*, a production that, shortly after its release, went on to sweep both the Emmys and Golden Globes. What I didn't know was that I was going to love it—and that's saying something for a person who has never been particularly fond of Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning script.

Although it was originally written as a play, the theatrical versions I had seen never quite "lived up to" the sheer grandiosity of the storyline as written. In many cases, some actors couldn't quite carry off their multiple-character roles, the special effects employed demanded a suspension of disbelief that required the mental skills of a swami, and the angel looked more like it came from Value Village than Heaven on High. This film, however, delivers on all levels—and then takes things even higher.

I initially saw this new, Mike Nichols-directed version split into three segments on one of my movie channels last year; then voraciously consumed it again and again in repeats, which ran *ad infinitum* for several months after the initial broadcast. Simply put, it was mesmerizing—and remained so over multiple viewings.

For those who have not yet had the pleasure, *Angels in America* will air in Canada as part of a six-part series, starting Monday, April 11, on Showcase. If you have not already stocked up, I recommend grabbing a few extra blank VHS tapes, as this miniseries is likely one you'll want to watch more than once, if only to take in all the sumptuous detail.

Those unfamiliar may be unnerved by the sheer complexity of the plot—or, more accurately, plots. In a nutshell, *Angels* involves a dizzying zig-zag of lives that somehow all connect to one another in the context of the coming millennium and the astonishing changes it may bring. Angels, AIDS, Mormons, ghosts and, of all people, the much-hated, closet-case lawyer Roy Cohn all come together in a surreal mix of life and art. And, in this instance, that mix takes on a brilliance I have never seen before in its inner textual, or outer theatrical, workings.

The film starts on a high note with a remarkable performance by Meryl Streep, who makes her initial appearance as an ancient rabbi presiding over a funeral. Present in the assembled mourners are Louis and Prior (Justin Kirk and Ben Shenkman), a young gay couple, the latter the scion of a prominent family. After the funeral for Louis' grandmother ends, the two walk out to a bench where it is revealed that Prior has developed "the wine-dark kiss of the angel of death": a Kaposi's Sarcoma lesion that heralds the onset of AIDS. Shortly thereafter, unable to cope with the implications of this development (specifically, his lover's rapidly declining health), Louis abandons Prior to the care of his ex, Belize (Jeffrey Wright), and a tough-as-nails frontline AIDS nurse, played by Emma Thompson. Eventually, Louis finds comfort in an improbable attraction to young Republican lawyer Joe (Patrick Wilson), a sexually confused Mormon saddled with a ditzy, Valium-addicted wife named Harper (Mary Louise Parker). Further complicating matters is Joe's mentor, the infamous Roy Cohn (spectacularly played by Al Pacino), who attempts to coax Joe into a plum position in Washington so that he may manipulate his young disciple and save his own skin.

And that, my friends, is just the beginning.

Soon, an angel visits Prior, and tells him that he is a prophet meant to serve a higher calling as the millennium approaches. Roy Cohn, quickly succumbing to AIDS, is tormented by the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg, "everyone's sweet old Jewish grandmother" whom he previously helped send to the electric chair. Joe and Louis become lovers. Joe's mother turns up in New York and winds up helping to care for Prior at his bedside. And Belize, as Cohn's attending nurse, attempts to relieve his despicable patient of some of his precious AZT stash.

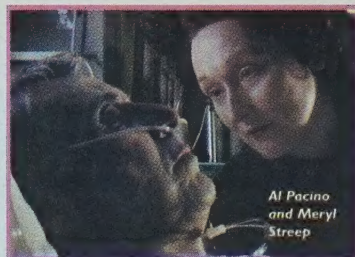
Confused yet? In a lesser production, you might be, but then again this is hardly what one would classify as a "lesser production".

As mentioned earlier, HBO's *Angels in America* is a spectacular bit of cinema—although, as has been demonstrated time and time again, production values do not a gem make. What really makes *Angels* soar is the uniformly credible and engaging performances delivered by its ensemble cast, many of whom tackle multiple and diverse roles with admirable aplomb. Meryl Streep is, of course, Meryl Streep, and earned every atom that comprised her Golden Globe and Emmy Awards. Al Pacino, though not always one of my favourites, has with this film put out one of the best performances of his career. The most glowing praise, however, must go to relative unknown Jeffrey Wright,



Justin Kirk and Ben Shenkman

whose nuanced yet powerful turn as Belize stands head and shoulders above all other depictions I have seen. Though the rest of the cast has done a wonderful job with their characters, Wright somehow manages to shine brighter, bringing a spark and a real sense of sympathy to a character that can all too easily (and often) be played as a stereotype. Wright, particularly in his highly charged scenes with Pacino, demonstrates that he is a dramatic force to be reckoned with and one of the most promising new actors in or out of Hollywood, if this film is any indication. I would recommend this movie to anyone based on his performance alone, but with so many other wonderful things going for it, this is sure to be a hit with audiences of all kinds. Although the subject matter is sombre and sobering, there is a sense of hope—joy, even—that makes *Angels in America* so much more than just an "AIDS movie", and its effects will be felt so much longer than the six hours it takes to enchant an audience.



Al Pacino and Meryl Streep

Don't miss it. ▼



GET OUT!

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Outlooks is seeking photographers to submit material for future Out & About coverage. Applicants must be committed, professional and outgoing by nature.

Key markets of interest include: Victoria; the Okanagan; Edmonton; Regina/Saskatoon; Toronto; Moncton/Halifax and St. John's. If you are interested in exploring this further, drop us a line at: main@outlooks.ca

BESIDES THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

WHO ELSE THIS YEAR IS CELEBRATING THEIR



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Under taxing circumstances

By John Coulbourn

Here we go again ...

It's a question that keeps running through my mind with increasing urgency: what is it about concepts like fairness and equality that make them so hard to grasp for those on the political right?

It is, of course, a question a lot of us are asking as the debate on same-sex marriage "heats up", as they say in the general media, a phrase that always leaves me wondering, every time I read it, where I was during those apparently fleeting moments when it ever cooled down.

But even in the midst of the prevailing same-sex hysteria, it seems, the right (political or religious—often both at once) is capable of belching up someone whose behaviour is enough to leave most of us scratching our heads and wondering just how in hell life can be sustained in a gene pool that has so obviously gone off.

Case in point: the ravings of one Cheryl Gallant, Conservative MP for Ontario's Renfrew area. If the name sounds familiar, it should come as no surprise. In the past few years, Gallant has established herself as a loose-lipped lady of the right, with pitifully few reservations about strutting her intellectual shortcomings in public.

This is, of course, a situation that would normally place her firmly on the very edges of the lunatic fringe, where she would be justifiably ignored—but in a right wing world that includes the flip-flopping (which is delightfully close to floundering, when you think about it) Ralph Klein, Stephen Harper, Elsie Wayne and various other towering intellectual giants, ignoring the lunatic fringe would mean ignoring the entire lot of 'em, it seems to me.

Besides, in accusing the Liberal governments of Canada and Ontario of being anti-Christian (which she apparently did in both a constituent newsletter and in the parliament of the nation) it seems Ms Gallant has inadvertently exposed an entire area of inequity that has heretofore gone largely unremarked.

What has prompted Gallant's accusation is the actions of those governments as relates to organized religions "who speak out against the Liberal government", to use Gallant's words. Specifically, of course, what Gallant is referring to is the government's investigation of churches who are using tax exempt dollars given by the faithful to fight things like same-sex marriage and abortion, while those arrayed against them and in favour of such socially progressive notions are forced to use after-tax dollars to get their side of the story told.

'And frankly, I'm getting a little sick of it, particularly when one stops to consider that, at least in the arena of gay rights, supporters have already been funding both sides of the argument for years. That's courtesy of a spineless government that has used our tax dollars to fight any forward momentum on the equality front, while at the same time refusing to give supporters of equality any tax credit or recompense for the money we've given to organizations like EGale to fight those battles on our behalf.

If you doubt my word, look no further than the situation with Vancouver's Little Sisters bookstore, a legitimate business operation that has been forced time after time to take the thugs at Canada Customs to court. Little Sisters, of course, keeps winning but has been denied any sort of recompense for massive legal expenses despite a situation that has "harassment" writ all over it in letters so large one could probably read it from the moon.

And now, into a situation that is already unfairly lopsided, the religious right wants to inject itself, using tax exempt dollars raised for charitable purposes for political activism instead—and for once, the government seems to be doing the correct thing, which as Gallant's remarks suggest, is not the same thing as the "right" thing at all.

So, welcome to the world of political activism, Ms Gallant. Now take a look around and chill. No one is trying to deny you the right to your religion or even to hold opinions many of us would consider ill-reasoned and unfair—even while we would fight for your right to hold them.

But, while none of us have tried, we've known all along that we can't rob gay charities in order to keep the threat you and your ilk represent at bay, anymore than you should be able to melt down the silver in your churches in order to ensure that gays remain the second class citizens you so clearly consider us to be.

It is, in the end, only fair. ▼

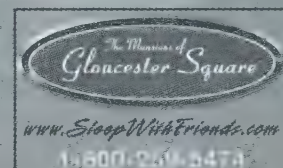
John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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C'mon—be a sport...

By Lino Di Nallo

Spring is just around the corner, and that means its time to go play outside. But which sport should you take up? Personally, I avoid soccer—I associate it with a greasy, mullet-sporting ex-brother-in-law who drove a tricked-out Mustang; his presence in my life during my formative teenaged years scarred me for life. And although I jog now, I never thought I'd become a runner, as I could barely make it down the stairs to Mama Rosa's cellar and back to grab another bag of Doritos during a commercial break while watching *Falcon Crest*, starring dreamboat heartthrob Lorenzo Lamas. Personal issues aside, on behalf of *Outlooks*, I now proudly present you with "Toronto's Athletic Alternatives To Sitting On Your Fat Ass Now That Winter Is Almost Over".

Cabbagetown Softball League

Celebrating their thirtieth anniversary this year, the CGSL is part of NAGAAA: the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance. This year, they will have about eighteen teams in their open divisions, and up to four teams in the women's division. The league has teams in B, C and D divisions, with most teams playing in C Division, as determined by NAGAA ratings ("A" being the most competitive, decidedly too competitive for the CGSL's mandate). Everyone from amateurs to serious softball players is welcome to join, and if you're unsure of your ability, skills clinics ensure that you don't kill yourself on the wrong team if you're just getting started.

Practice is usually once a week, beginning in April, wherever each individual team locates a diamond. As for games, this will be the first year the league plays under the Friday night lights at Riverdale Southwest Park. Games also continue to take place on Saturdays and Sundays at McCleary Park on Lakeshore Boulevard.

The highlight of the league's season is the Canada Cup. This year it will take place on the Canada Day long weekend (July 2 and 3), when about fifty teams from across North America hit Toronto to compete. In addition, the NAGAAA hosts an annual Gay Softball World Series, which will be held in San Diego this year (about five teams compete every year). The cost to join is \$115, which includes twenty games, Canada Cup and playoffs (cost of individual team uniforms varies. They may be completely or partially offset by the teams' sponsors).

Website: www.gaysoftball.ca Email: membership@gaysoftball.ca

Registration Dates: Sunday, April 10th, at George's Play, 4-7 p.m.; Sunday, April 17th, at Crews/Tango 2-5 p.m.; Sunday, April 30th, at Woody's/Sailor 1-4 p.m.

FrontRunners

FrontRunners brings together competitive and recreational runners of all abilities. Runs happen Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. (10K), and Saturdays at 9 a.m. (5, 10 or 15K). They meet in front of the 519 Community Centre, just north of Wellesley on Church Street. Saturday morning runs are followed by schmoozing, coffee and carbs at Timothy's Coffee (444 Yonge Street).

If you're new to jogging and can't even *fathom* taking on 5K, contact Elaine at the Runner's Shop on Bloor and Avenue Road (416-923-9702). She has a beginner's workshop starting in the spring to gear you up for the Pride and Remembrance run, a 5K race on Saturday, June 25th. As a testament to gayness, the food at the Pride Run has a reputation for its culinary excellence. For more on the race, visit www.priderun.org

Website: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/toronto Email: frontrunnerstoronto@yahoo.ca

Downtown Toronto Soccer League

You look fabulous in stripes!
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The DTSL has been around for about six years as a group playing scrimmage games, but this is only the team's second year with official membership. Now they have about eighty-eight active members and are definitely looking for more. Last year, four teams were made up of twenty-two players each—double the usual to counterbalance unpredictable summer schedules. Traditional drafting ensures each team has a balanced roster of players, and the league is made up of ninety percent men, ten percent women (the Pink

Turf Soccer League, perennial favourite of the lesbians, is so popular that all spots were already taken as of press time) The cost to join the DTSL is \$90.

Website: www.downtownsoccertoronto.org

Email: info@downtownsoccer-toronto.org

Registration Dates: Saturday, April 2nd at Woody's, 6-10 p.m.; Sunday, April 3rd at Crews/Tango, time to be determined; Sunday, April 10th, at Pegasus, 3-6 p.m.; Sunday April 17th at Slack Alice, 5-8 p.m.

Toronto Lesbian and Gay Tennis Association

The TLGTA welcomes all players regardless of experience or skill level. Recreational games happen at Ramsden Park on the NE corner of Avenue & Davenport, while competitive games are usually held at tennis clubs around town. They are members of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA), an organization that has chapters and tournaments all over the world

The TLGTA hosts several social events throughout the year, such as tennis parties, an annual summer picnic on Toronto Island and a fall banquet. The big event of their year is the CGO Tournament on the Victoria Day weekend, when 150 players from across Canada and abroad converge in Toronto. Activities are a big part of fostering community within the TLGTA, since you can't really socialize on the courts. The cost to join this organization is \$45 for a one-year membership, and it includes all tennis events, social activities and an e-newsletter. There may be additional fees for activities such as team tennis, tennis tournaments and winter tennis, as they rent courts from private/semi-private tennis clubs for these events).

Website: www.tlgt.ca Email: tlgta@yahoo.ca

Registration: Sunday, April 24th, at Woody's 4-7PM

Out And Out

Rather than joining a team, if you're simply looking to get out with like-minded people, consider Out and Out, Canada's largest gay and lesbian sports and recreation club. One thousand members lead 300 activities annually, including hiking cycling canoeing, camping and horseback riding. Here's how it works: five newsletters per year list news and upcoming activities. If you see something you like, you contact that activity's organizer. You can, accordingly, also organize your own excursions for others to join. Transportation for out-of-town activities is arranged via carpool, and gas costs are shared.

Their New Member's Night is a great opportunity to ask questions, enjoy some snacks and watch a video about the club. You'll also learn about the infamous summer Jamboree in Haliburton, for which some members prepare up to a year in advance. The cost to join Out And Out is a very reasonable \$30 (\$50 for couples)

The New Member's Info Night will take place Tuesday, May 17th, at The 519 Community Centre, beginning at 7:30 p.m. You can also download a membership form from Out And Out's official website.

Website: www.outandout.on.ca Email: outandout@outandout.on.ca ▼

Lino DiNallo is a writer in Toronto who weeps in the winter and wilts in the summer. Talk about high-maintenance.

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Vancouver's great gay blades

By Gerard MacMullin

"When the Cutting Edges hug, they really mean it."

Although years have passed since a straight athlete made that double-edged comment about Vancouver's gay hockey team, it's as true today—as they celebrate their tenth anniversary—as it was back then. They still laugh about it, because the first thing you notice about the Cutting Edges is their sense of humour, and their refusal to take themselves too seriously. These guys aren't trying to push the social envelope, after all; they're out for a good time.

"We have a lot of fun and we like each other," says board member and left winger Rick Heffernan. "[But] we like to win and we like to beat the other teams so there's a bit of seriousness there, too."

So of course they mean it when they hug.

And who likes to watch powerful athletes hug more than gay boys growing up in a straight world? For us, sports provided a safe and steady source of socially acceptable homoeroticism. With all that hugging and butt patting, sweating and stripping down in steamy locker rooms, could we be blamed for indulging in a little fantasy?

"The locker room is just stinky," chuckles Heffernan, as he drives a Zamboni over my daydream. "Hockey equipment smells, which kind of puts a damper on any sexual tension!"

Besides, he adds, most hockey players are like everyone else: they look better with their clothes on. Reality bites.

But if anyone's not intimidated by that, it's a bunch of gay guys who like to challenge straight boys at their own game. Maybe having the sheer defiance to crash this bastion of the super-butth is what earned the Edges so much respect and affection in the community. They're a fixture at Vancouver Pride Parades. They've earned a reputation as fundraisers for causes like the Dr. Peter AIDS Centre. They've played internationally at the Gay Games and, last year, won the Chelsea Challenge in New York.

At a time when millionaire fat-cats have shut down the National Hockey League, it's refreshing to see a hockey story that involves a real love of the game.

The origins of today's Edges can be traced to the 1994 Gay Games in New York. The guys who made up the hockey entry that year had so much fun they wanted to keep the team going. Of course, that simple idea was slightly more complicated than it sounded. It's one thing for queer athletes to compete in the sheltered



Ladies and gentlemen, the Cutting Edges...

confines of the Gay Games, but what would happen to an openly gay team in the real world, where the competition was a squad of strapping straight boys? Does a gay defenseman—interested in brunches and bottoming—really want to face down a hulking heterosexual streaking in on skates at forty-miles-per-hour?

Suddenly it doesn't sound like much fun anymore.

Homophobic slurs and violence are part of the game. How would the last domain of the super-macho react to the arrival of gay men?

Happily, the reaction was better than expected.

"The referees, ten years ago, gave other teams penalties for calling us fags and things like that, and that didn't happen very often. Now we're just another team," says Heffernan.

The league, the players and the officials were generally even-handed. Attacking someone for being gay was regarded the same as attacking someone for his race or religion. A handful of individuals who were verbally or physically abusive were ejected from the league. The Edges became part of the scene and life went on.

"We're competitive, most games," says Heffernan. "The other teams get up to beat us, they like to beat us and I don't think they make a big deal of us being gay. And we usually don't make a big deal of us being gay."

The Edges operate two teams—and are considering starting a third—in a Duffers League where squads are divided according to skill level. This opens doors to everyone, from beginners to advanced players, and athletes who played as kids but quit somewhere along the way. Costs are kept to a minimum—season-long membership and ice fees run around \$550—and body checking and fighting are prohibited. The league plays out of the Thunderbird Winter Sports Center at the University of British Columbia from September through April.

Perhaps it's a testament to how much we've evolved when you consider the team's biggest issue isn't homophobia, but finding more ice time.

"It's really difficult...[we'd] like to do more with beginners, but we need more ice time to do that," Heffernan says.

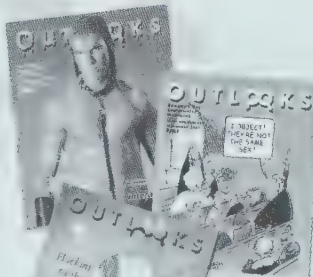
The team hosts several open ice nights each September where prospective players can assess their skill levels. Because the emphasis is on recreation, exercise and development, everyone is welcome.

Of course, we can't pretend that the queer factor is totally forgotten. After all, no group of straight boys wants to be beaten by a bunch of gays. The Edges often notice the straight teams they face tend to dig a little deeper and play a little harder.

But that's hockey.

"It wasn't a big deal, and it continues not to be a big deal," Heffernan concludes. "Other teams just treat us like [all their] other opponents." ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer and broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's west End.



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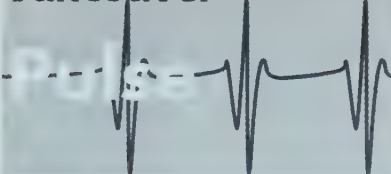
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Vancouver



By Outlooks Staff

of \$150 per person or \$1,200 for a table of eight. Call (604) 915-9255 to book.

Food for the Fight

You'll do your part to help fight conservative forces (largely U.S.-based) that seek to quash same-sex marriage by attending "Love is in the Air", a fundraising dinner for Canadians for Equal Marriage co-hosted by James Bond and John Evans. The event takes place on Monday, April 11th with drinks at the Opus Hotel starting at 7 p.m. and dinner following at 8 p.m. in the Elixir Bar and Restaurant. Tickets are \$100 per person and available by calling Ainslie Blanchett at (604) 689-9111 or e-mailing ablanchett@lmls.com.

Kick It!

Out For Kicks Soccer Club will be holding registration for its summer season on April 6th at The Fountainhead Pub (1025 Davie) starting at 7 p.m. The fee to join this co-ed, all-level club is \$75 and funds are payable by cash or cheque. For more on this fun and fit way to socialize, log on to www.outforkicks.ca

Two Times the Fun

Surrey's headed for an unprecedented social season thanks to Out Camping B.C. and the Outskirts Social Club, both of which are ramping up for a spring and summer of fun activities for gay and bi men. The two

To have your community event listed in Pulse, please submit your information by the 15th of the month prior to issue date. E-mail: main@outlooks.ca. Toll-free fax: 1-877-885-6657.

And the Winners Are...

The Pan Pacific Hotel (999 Canada Place) is the spot to be on Sunday, April 24, as the AccolAIDS 2005 awards are handed out to honour heroes in the B.C. HIV/AIDS movement. The event runs from 6 to 10 p.m. and tickets are available at a cost

groups will be holding a joint meeting on April 22nd to help plan the camping season and also to establish the foundation of Outskirts. For more information on these purely social groups, visit them online at www.members.shaw.ca/outskirtsbc (for Outskirts, natch) or www.members.shaw.ca/outcampingbc for the camping group. You may also reach them both by calling (604) 930-GAYS.

Birthday Bumps & grinds

A special birthday show and party will be held for Empress Taylor on April 8th at Buddys, with doors at 9 p.m. and show at 9:30. Dancing will follow.

Getting Down to (More) Business

The Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Business Association (GLBA) will hold its AGM on Friday, April 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Vancity head office boardroom (183 Terminal Avenue). Attendees will be greeted in the entrance foyer and then directed upstairs for the meeting and to hear the action plan for 2005-2006. New members will also be inducted at this time. For more information on this and other events (including the association's special guest speaker series), log on to the GLBA's official website, which is located at www.glba.org

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Sunday, April 24

AccolAIDS Awards Gala

Join the BC Persons With AIDS Society to honour the heroes of the BC AIDS Movement. The 4th Annual AccolAIDS Awards and Fundraising Gala will feature a gourmet dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions. Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 24th at the Pan Pacific Hotel from 6-10pm for an unforgettable evening. To purchase your tickets, call 604-915-9255 or visit www.bcpwa.org.

BC Mortgage Info Finances A Home For McLaren

Our generous friends and supporters Jean Yves Pigeon and Patrick Mulhern, mortgage brokers at BC Mortgage Info, have offered to donate \$20 to McLaren Housing for every mortgage deal that they close. If the customer advises that they were made aware of BC Mortgage Info through McLaren Housing Society, the contribution jumps to \$100. Jean Yves and Patrick are trusted - and very popular - mortgage brokers, and this generous arrangement promises to be very very good news for McLaren Housing, anticipated to finance one entire portable housing subsidy for one year! Does anyone YOU know need a mortgage? Encourage them to explore BCMortgageInfo in their search by e-mailing either Jean Yves or Patrick, calling 604-878-0234, or visiting bcmortgageinfo.com, and be sure to mention McLaren Housing.

Carlotta
Gurl



Monday May 2

Fit For A Queen

The highly anticipated Vegas style drag show is back with all the glamour and zany hilarity that made it so spectacularly popular! There is no reason to go to Las Vegas to see a "world class" female impersonation extravaganza! We have, once again, recruited Vancouver's creme de la creme, professional female impersonators to collectively donate their comedic, dancing and acting talents for one night of wacky, stylish, camp fun that has to be experienced

to be believed. May 2nd at the Stanley Theatre at 8pm. Hosted by the very elegant but naughty Gouda Gabor and Joan-E Tickets - \$30 available at Ticketmaster at 604.280-4444, The Arts Club Theatre at 604.687.1644 and Little Sister's. Proceeds to benefit the Shooting Stars Foundation in support of direct service AIDS agencies www.shootingstarsfoundation.org

In the month of March 2005, over \$3,000.00 was raised at the Vancouver Curling Club event - the Barry Naimark Charity Skins Bonspiel that will go to fund services at Wings Housing Society. www.wingshousing.bc.ca

Gay Bingo

at the Odyssey

benefitting Friends For Life takes place every Tuesday @ 9:30 p.m., with Joan-E, Justine Tyme, & DJ Jules.



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OUTLOOKS

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VML 1ST ANNIVERSARY NUMBERS



A Strapping Lad

Ever notice how 'hottie' and 'harness' start with the same letter? Judging from that grin on Damian's face, we think he does...

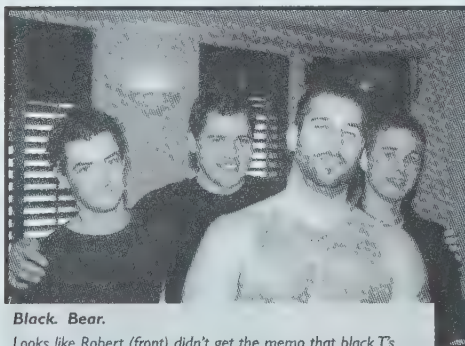
CELTIC PRIDE PARADE ROUTE



She Bangs

Vancouver City Councillor Ellen Wadsworth takes out a bit of frustration atop one of the floats. Hey, maybe all politicians should get one...

BCBEARS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OASIS PUB



Black. Bear.

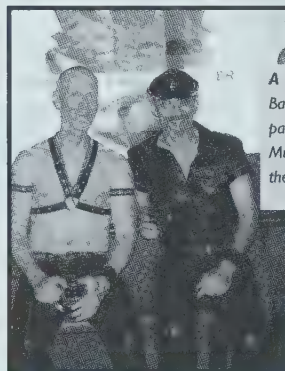
Looks like Robert (front) didn't get the memo that black T's were the order of the day. No big—it appears he's got enough fur to keep him warm. Pictured from left to right behind Robert are Michael, Oasis manager James Steck and Simon

Planning an event in Vancouver?
Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and
he'll see about covering it in Out & About.
Photos By: Barry Piersdorff



Grrrrins

Two bearish gents, Peter and Earl, flash their fangs for the camera—kinda makes you wish you were Goldilocks, don't it?

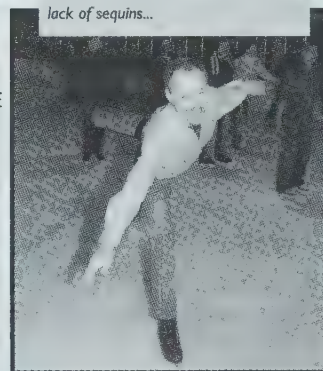


A Pair Of Chapless Chaps

Based on Dave and Rob's attire, leather pants were the way to go for this event. Must've been an uncharacteristic chill in the air that night...

Let's See The Russian Judge Knock This!

Pere sets off onto the ice in fine form, although points may be deducted for lack of sequins...



I'm Not Sure, But This Last Piece May Constitute As Being Overdressed...

Dave demonstrates the power of strategic accessorizing for our cameraman.



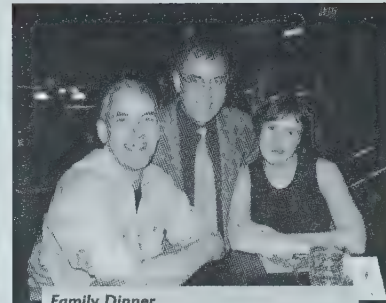
Board Or Bored?

Ladies and gentlemen, the newly appointed executive of BCBEARS... c'mon guys, you got in—smile a little!

Eat Your Heart Out, Paris Hilton
Evan demonstrates that you don't have to be an heiress to pull off "short"; all it takes is a great set of gams!

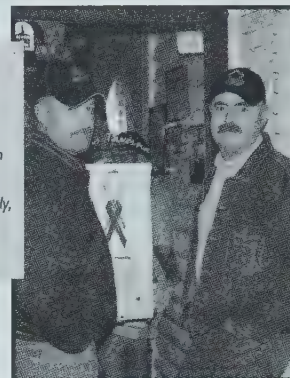


DINING OUT FOR LIFE VARIOUS RESTAURANTS



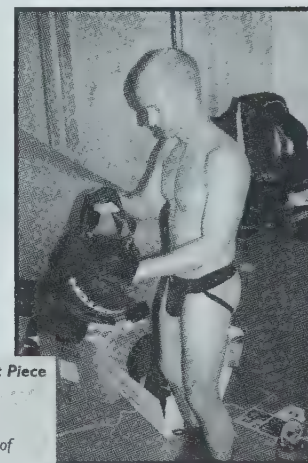
Family Dinner

Well, two-thirds of one, at least! Pictured here is Vancouver City Councillor Tim Stevenson (centre) with daughter Zoë and pal Gary.

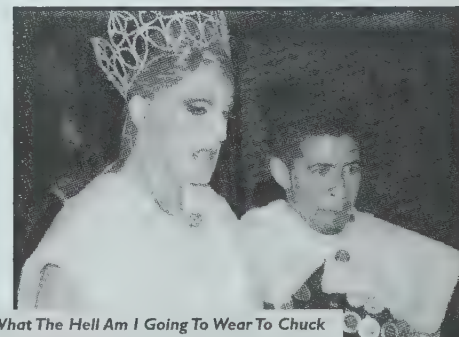


Worth The Wait

A pair of patient patrons queue up outside of Taki's Taverna to gnosh in support of a very good cause. Actually, make that a great one!



CORONATION 2005 COAST PLAZA STANLEY PARK



What The Hell Am I Going To Wear To Chuck And Camilla's 'Do'?

Newly crowned Empress Vivian Von Brokenhymen pauses to reflect on one of life's mysteries, Emperor Buster Cherry by her side.

FOCUS

JONATHAN HOBIN PHOTOGRAPHS

827 COLLEGE ST. 2ND FLOOR
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Jonathan Hobin is an emerging artist who originally began his fine art education in a broad range of disciplines in Ottawa. Upon relocating to Toronto to study photography at Ryerson University, Jonathan continued to explore his many passions, receiving much acclaim for his work along the way. He has descended from a long line of craftsmen and follows in his father's footsteps by embracing a life devoted to culture and creativity. Hobin credits songs, books and an ability to tap into his overactive childhood imagination as inspiration for his photographic work.

"My images are sometimes my literal interpretation of childhood rhymes, but are often simply a mixture of seemingly obscure literary and cinematic references."

The images featured on this page are from the Preston Catalogue and, like his most successful images, are very heavy on art direction and set design. This signature vision and attention to detail are hallmarks of Hobin's work, and all the elaborate sets and costumes seen in his photographs are designed and executed by him.



OUTLOOKS

is proud to bring you this regular showcase of photographic talent in Canada's GLBT community. If you would like your work considered for this feature please submit samples to main@outlooks.ca

By Roy Heale

Of all the precious places a gay or lesbian tourist can visit, there is one gem that shines

the brightest. No matter which season you choose to travel, San Francisco offers its visitors a temperate climate, not to mention the perfect escape from hometown pressures and stress. The intersection of Castro and 18th Street is said to form the "gay four corners" of the world, and creates a lavender "mecca" where anyone can feel at home and where everyone is equally welcome. Just strolling around the Castro district and San Francisco's many other gay neighbourhoods is, in itself, liberating, but the sheer variety of gay bars, restaurants, clubs, theatres and shops (all of which provide a warm California welcome) makes for an even more wonderful vacation experience. Staying at the Parker Guest House in the Castro places one in the heart of San Francisco and provides a home away from home you'll probably never want to leave. At very least, you'll want to return very soon, as I realized once I returned home to my usual—and more hectic—routine.

Although the "City by the Bay" has been recognized as a gay paradise for decades, it also has much to offer the GLBT tourist beyond the obvious attributes for which it is famous. After all, the multitudes of our community who chose to make it their home did so for more reasons than just great bars, clubs and restaurants—didn't they? Architecturally, the juxtaposition of classic Victorian and Edwardian designs (in pastel colours, no less) alongside modern buildings is absolutely charming, and creates a sense of being in some kind of magical, Disney-like kingdom (queendom?) for adults to enjoy.

Straight, gay or gay-friendly, San Francisco offers much for holiday enjoyment beyond the "usual" gay attractions, which I discovered after several repeat trips and a bit of exploration. For starters, the 49-Mile Scenic Drive is a great way to see the sights and familiarize yourself with the layout and beauty of the city, nestled, as it is, in the hills adjacent to San Francisco Bay. This self-guided tour is sign-posted with special visuals, and comprehensive maps and guidebooks are also available from the SFO Visitor Information Centers. From Union Square and Nob Hill to Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf, this trip provides a wonderful one-day tour of all the city's major attractions. If you decide to—literally—take this route, you may want to add a bit of rainbow flare by renting an exotic sports car (like a BMW Z4, a Mini Cooper,

San Francisco: THE VERY PICTURE OF PARADISE

A view of San Francisco Bay



Corvette or VW Bug convertible, to name only a few) from Special Rentals to make your sightseeing tour even more memorable. If you make a stop in Golden Gate Park, be sure to visit the U.S. National AIDS Memorial, a sombre but very worthwhile bit of gay history in a beautiful parkland setting. If you don't feel like driving then you can take it easy—and take in the sights—with an organized tour on a classic fire engine. And, if you think the sea is the place to be, you can also choose a romantic day cruise and see the city from a distance through one of the many tour operators that offer such excursions.

During the summer months ("officially" May to November, unlike most of Canada) Ms Trevor Hailey conducts "Cruising the Castro" tours, a first-hand (or, more appropriately, first-foot) walking history lesson of how the world's most notorious homo haven developed. Off the beaten path—and possibly even more interesting—are the San Francisco Ghost Hunt or Vampire Tour, both of which offer a glimpse of the dark side of this famously sunny destination. Each of these "pedestrian" experiences is anything but ordinary and guaranteed to provide you with lasting memories of your trip.

continued opposite

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Parker Guest House exterior



...and interior

from previous

Pampering oneself is a requisite on a good vacation, and the Castro offers a variety of excellent professional spas for ultimate indulgence and relaxation. Always Tan Skin and Body is highly recommended for a massage that will leave you light in the loafers regardless of how butch you are, and a facial sure to rejuvenate (if not erase) those stress lines. Xar Salon and Spa is also another great place to lift your spirits with a variety of services in their unique and inviting shaded outdoor patio and garden. Whether you're on vacation or not, self-indulgence is a good way to relax—but it's a particularly wise way to help ease yourself

into the laid-back attitude and pace of beautiful San Francisco.

Not surprisingly, the arts and culture scene has flourished within this urban paradise. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has been mounting amazing concerts for more than twenty-five years and, if your timing's right, one of their performances is not to be missed. *Beach Blanket Babylon*, the longest-running musical revue in history, is best known for its spectacular selection of hats (they have to be seen to be believed) and visual puns. Also in the realm of live theatre, this year marks the

twenty-seventh season for Theater Rhinoceros, the world's longest ongoing GLBT theatre, which performs award-winning smash hits and original new plays. If pop culture is more your thing, the Cartoon Art Museum is dedicated to the preservation of original cartoon cells, while the Levi Strauss and Co. Visitor Center showcases the colourful history of a garment that shaped casual style around the world for more than 150 years. If you're a fine art buff, paintings by masters the likes of Cezanne and Reubens can be enjoyed at the UC Berkeley Art Museum, alongside the work of the region's more notable local artists. If you're a nature nut, Mother Nature's colourful palette can be appreciated in all its vivid glory at the Steinhart aquarium, which boasts more than 1,000 species of salt and freshwater fish, reptiles and even penguins.

As evidenced in its population, diversity is the heart of San Francisco and equality its lifeblood. No matter how you choose to define the perfect vacation, SFO offers everything under the rainbow to make you happy, and filling the pot of gold found at its end is the little piece of your heart that you'll inevitably leave behind. ▼

Typical SFO architecture



Websites of interest

www.parkerguesthouse.com

www.innoncastro.com

www.sanfranciscogayguesthouse.com

www.specialtyrentals.com

www.alwaystanskinandbody.com

www.xarsalon.com

www.gaypocketusa.com

www.ComeOutHereSF.com

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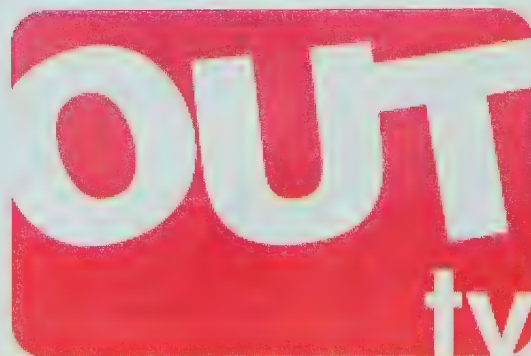
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Snippets for spring

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

One of the certainties of life, apart from death and taxes, is that things will change, whether obviously or imperceptibly.

Change can be good, as in a change of scene and pace. Manitoba may advertise itself as the friendly province, but the long, hard winters sometimes test that concept to the limits. By January and February there is a lot of grumpiness about—people feel cooped up, tired of snow, slush, rain and cold. High heating bills don't improve their mood and, if they are not into outdoor sports, a general feeling of depression and claustrophobia sets in.

This mood swing certainly affects me and many of my friends. Knowing that a change is as good as a rest and that it helps bump you out of a rut, I decided to save what was left of my sanity by opting for two weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, in late February. I was sick of Canadian news, exhausted by trudging or driving on slippery streets, and much in agreement with Kaiser Wilhelm's sour observation that "Canada is fit for neither man nor beast."

I have now returned to the snow and cold—not to mention quite a bit of news, GLBT and otherwise. What follows is a sampling of some of that news, and the changes we can expect as winter finally slips into spring.

▼ In March, Ontario native Kim Allen, who has run Winnipeg's Rainbow Resource Centre for the past couple of years, announced that she is leaving in mid-April. She and partner Cheryl miss their Ontario families too much, though Allen says she's greatly enjoyed starting all kinds of new programs at the Centre. "Although we have appreciated the prairies, we've got the Canadian Shield in our bones and Ontario Lake water (the clean stuff) in our blood," she says.

In March, she organized a series of four Wellness Workshops for the GLBT community, focusing on relationships, access to health resources, the therapeutic value of forgiveness and positive self-talk. She spoke on the latter theme and says it's an important exercise in building self-esteem. One trick she uses is to tape positive messages on the fridge or bathroom mirror. Helps that winter depression!

"Many of us have an inner critic that puts us down," she says. "Writing these positive slogans can help overcome the internal negative messages that damage us."

▼ Change is also underway at Nine Circles, the main GLBT clinic in Winnipeg, which has played a major role in HIV treatment and prevention. Executive Director John Stinson has left after three years and the board is advertising for a new boss. Stinson, formerly with ACAP, took over at a critical time when three separate agencies were being merged into Nine Circles. Village Clinic Inc., the Aboriginal AIDS Task Force and the AIDS Shelter Coalition.

▼ Cold as the city was, Winnipeg was the venue in February for a meeting of Pride Organizers from across the nation. Twenty-seven participants from nine cities met here and agreed to form a national Pride coordinating organization, representing some 1.5 million Pride festival attendees.

To be known as Fierté Canada Pride, the national body will advocate on behalf of Pride committees across Canada. Winnipegger Brad Tyler-West, its president, says there is strength in numbers and a national coordinating body is long overdue. "We're excited about the potential of this organization to further the mandates

of Prides across Canada," he says. "Pride festivals contribute to the fabric of our country socially, culturally and economically."

Canada now has over forty annual Pride celebrations from Vancouver to Halifax and in many cities in between. The next national Pride organizers' conference will take place in spring 2006 in Halifax.

▼ Winnipeg is to be the host city for the seventh Drag King Extravaganza, a four-day international gathering for Drag Kings and their followers.

Reece Lagartera-Manning, who performs under the stage name Carlos Las Vegas, says the local drag king group Gender Play Cabaret won the bid for the seventh extravaganza and he expects the event, which will be held October 20 - 23, to attract followers of drag king culture from across North America, as well as Ireland, Germany, England and Australia. He expects between 140 and 180 drag king visitors and supporters to show up. The extravaganza will include an art exhibit, films, a conference and festival, including several small shows for amateur artists.

Reece, AKA Carlos Las Vegas, demonstrates how to make the 'fur fly' in one of his performances



The first annual international meeting of drag kings took place in Columbus, Ohio, in 1999. Last year's conference took place in Chicago, while the 2003 event was held in Minneapolis.

What is a drag king?

Las Vegas defines it as a person who "performs masculinity on stage". He says performers can be of any biological gender or sexual orientation.

So now you know. ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Maclean's and The Financial Post. He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.



CHELSEA BOYS © 2005 HANSON + NEUWIRTH



A peek inside Ginestier's Boudoir

By Brad Malmberg

For twelve years, Miriam Ginestier has been makin' whoopee.

Onstage.

Sometimes, she films it. And for twelve years, she's been playing to packed houses of the hooting and hollering variety, some of whom have travelled from around the world specifically to watch her do it.

The whoopee involved is a cabaret, a burlesque cabaret, called "Le Boudoir"—a bawdy, cheeky, flirty, just-a-teensy-bit-dirty, summer lesbian vaudeville event. And, mostly flying under the radar of any media attention, she has turned it into one of Montréal's hottest tickets.

This year it will be at a local treasure, the Corona Theatre, which was built in 1912 in the St. Henri district and has since been ravishingly restored. A co-production with queer theatre company Out Productions, Le Boudoir is part vaudeville, part theatre, part peep show and part movie house, as Ginestier has recently added screenings of short, silent films to the bill, complete with live music. Better still, this year there is an open call for submissions nation-wide for a silent film contest. The guidelines are simple: submissions can run up to ten minutes in length, and must be filmed in black and white with over-the-top drama and comedy. And, remember—*no talking!*

The first thing to hit me when I entered Ginestier's warm, eclectic Plateau walk-up was the unbearably delicious aroma of spaghetti sauce her roommate Mike was preparing. The next thing was how petite and radiant this dynamic woman is. She took me up to her boudoir where we spoke, and then she showed me two of the silent films she'd made for previous years, featuring her recurring character Fannie Nipplebottom. A far cry from original silent film icons, Fannie, although a typical flapper and wide-eyed naïf, is unmistakably a dyke, specifically a dyke who travels through time and seduces beautiful young women along the way, her dog in tow like some alternate-universe Dorothy.

And why the focus on vaudeville, cabaret, and silent film?

"It's a personal fetish; just a love of old, feeling like I'm born in the wrong era. It's not a statement, but it's definitely looking to the past because I'm so bored with the present—especially in the gay scene!" Ginestier offers. "Things have really changed [since the first year of the event], but back then there were only folk singers and drag queens. There was no other entertainment, it was so limited. I was horrified! It's a smaller community and it's even harder to find a subculture within it."

This offshoot began as Ginestier was preparing to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Le Boudoir. "I said I would do a striptease for the tenth anniversary, and then it came and

I thought: *I know, I'll make a film, that's less embarrassing!* So I rented a big cake and had a girl go into a cake for a party. It was really fun, really easy," she says of that first venture. "It was a little gem that turned out just great, so I thought I'd do another one the next year, because I have a character that performs every year called Fannie Nipplebottom."

Ginestier felt that, if she could put something together, it might not be so difficult to get others in on the action.

"It's easy, improvised, superfun—and I thought if I can do this, other people could do this. I had a bit of profit from last year, so I thought I'd invest it in a contest," she says. "I'm more interested in aesthetics than content, so it could get racy."



The ever-glamorous—and talented—Miriam Ginestier

As for racy, Le Boudoir has garnered a bit of a reputation as being so, although Ginestier is quick to point out that

nothing nasty occurs, even after so many years of experimentation and creative license.

It's not that racy," she stresses. "Is there nudity? Sometimes. But it's really not a burlesque show. I use the word burlesque but I use it in the turn of the century sense, which isn't about pasties and tassels. I just don't go there, that's a 1950s aesthetic for me."

Ginestier says that, although there are some burlesque artists involved, it's always "contextualized" as part of a bigger thematic picture. "I've always had a peep show, during intermission, but it was never a regular peep show—last year we had a confessional," she says. "Sometimes, it was a walk-through environment, with women draped and feeding you chocolate-covered strawberries. I do these little dance numbers where there's these three 'proper ladies' who always lose their cool, something happens to them, little fairies cast spells on them, and they'll take off their clothes and they'll be shocked and horrified to find out they're naked. But they're wearing bloomers and undershirts!"

Despite such elements, Ginestier says the event is more about being suggestive, playful and unpredictable. "It's rarely about nudity, but my sprites are always half-naked or wearing Saran-wrap. But they're not really sexy!" she continues with a laugh.

Clearly something about her signature formula is working, as Le Boudoir has grown considerably over the years. Even though the crowd has grown a bit more diverse over the event's history, Ginestier says that lesbians still comprise about ninety percent of those who attend.

"I worked pretty hard to protect that. But now there's so much burlesque, I don't think it's going to attract straight voyeurs, whereas I used to think it would," she says. "If I'd advertised 'sexy lesbian cabaret', I don't know if I would've liked what [might have] happened to the audience. The lesbian community is extremely networked, across the country, North America—the world, even. I have people come in from France, Chicago, Toronto, Ottawa, Québec City for the event."

If you're one of those people who is interested in seeing what Le Boudoir is all about, visit the Out Productions website at www.out.ca, contact Miriam via e-mail at mim@aei.ca or call (514) 393-3701. The 2005 edition of Le Boudoir runs July 2nd at the Corona Theatre in Montréal. If you're interested in contributing to the silent film competition, details can be found on the Out Productions website as well, or you can contact Miriam Ginestier via the channels listed above. Deadline for submissions is May 1st, so grab a camera and an iMac and get your film in ASAP! ▼

Brad Malmberg is both an ex-Calgarian and an ex-Vancouverite who now makes his home in Montreal

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Dear FREDDY

Dear Freddy,

I strongly disagree with what you said to C.W., the reader with the Harry Potter "crush" in last month's issue. As far as I'm concerned, whether or not

someone acts on these things is not the point—ogling a fifteen-year-old boy is just plain wrong. And so are you to say it isn't.

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

Strongly disagree? My, aren't we outspoken!! Gawd, Concerned, it sounds like you're answering a survey on your telephone service provider... The thing is, this matter doesn't concern you (well, clearly you are concerned) because C.W. asked me for advice. And, really, aren't you being a bit silly about all this? So some guy thinks some other guy (younger) is cute. Big deal. Everyone thinks things, good and bad, without acting on them—it's called social restraint. You know that old Ukrainian woman from the Tim Horton's "proper lunch" commercial? I've often thought I'd like to jump up and tear her throat out because she's so irritating, but I don't. I also think Avril Lavigne is adorable, but you wouldn't see me snuffling around her nether regions if I found her on the sofa at one of my parties. Now, that *guitar player*, on the other hand... Once we start regulating thought (how very Orwellian you are, Concerned) we're well on our way to Hell in a handbag. Get your mind out of the gutter, darling; not everyone is as perverted as you.

Big hugs,

Freddy

Dear Freddy,

The problem I am having is this: I have been seeing this guy for about six months now. We started off as good friends but now my feelings for him are stronger. He knows how I feel and says he feels the same way. I asked him if we could start going out and he said no. I asked why and he told me that he is scared of being hurt again and just wants to be good friends with fringe benefits. My problem is that I love this guy and don't know what to do. I see it two ways: one is that I say nothing and keep things the way they are and hope to god that one day he will want more. Or I tell him to hit the bricks and try to move on without him in my life. I really don't know what the hell to do; I love him so much. Please help.

Edward

Dear Edward,

Well, my dear, I'm afraid the die has already been cast—why the hell didn't you contact me six months ago? At this point, if your pal sees you as just a pal and you still see him as someone who will eventually come around (read: come all over you and then make a yummy breakfast whilst birds serenade the sun), you've got a recipe for disaster. I'm actually not sure what you mean by "fringe benefits"—do you trim each other's bangs or are the two of you "fooling around" a bit? If it's the latter then he's playing you for a sucker (jerker? rimmer? kisser? top? bottom?) and will dump you as soon as someone "better" happens along. I hate to quote that possessed house from the *Amityville Horror*, but get out—and do it now, Edward. If he's not interested at this point he won't be interested later, and you will have spent a *devastating* amount of time hanging around some tit like a lovelorn schoolgirl. Chin up, move on and find someone worth your time and effort. It'll hurt a lot now, but it'll hurt much, *much* more if you make the inevitable break after months (years?) of falling for him further.

All the best,

Freddy

P.S. You don't happen to wear glasses, do you Edward? Word has it that there's some guy out there who has a Harry Potter fetish—you might want to draw a zigzag on your forehead with eyeliner and see if you can't entice him for a bit of fun "rebound action". Oh, and don't worry about the moral implications—I'm sure his cranky boyfriend as dumped him by now. Hope this helps...

F.

Hi Freddy,

I have a problem that's been bugging me for quite some time now. I work in an office that is, unfortunately, not very gay friendly. Then again, I've noticed that there are others like me—except they're closeted. I've tried to connect with them but have not been successful at all—they are so afraid to talk to me. I don't understand: in this age, why do so many still choose to stay in the closet? As an openly gay man, I'm often tagged for verbal abuse, and

when I brought it up with the boss (who I think is gay, too) he reassured me that they are just 'kidding' with me. I don't believe it for a bit. These closeted gays feel so threatened by me that some of them are acting like morons and cowards. I want to leave but I can't; I have a family to feed. This whole thing is stressing me out and I'm not sure what to do anymore. Any suggestions?

Taki

Dear Taki,

Jeez, Louise—would you relax already?! You sound like one of those people who thinks everyone is gay (they *are*, actually, but you have to give people time to come around at their own pace). Here's the deal, Taki: unless you've seen your co-workers having same-sex relations on the boardroom table or had them approach you to divulge/discuss their sexuality, it's really none of your business. And trying to make it your business in a work setting is just asking for trouble—same deal as politics, religion or disclosing the identity of your favourite *Survivor* contestant. As you pointed out, you're openly gay, so if they feel comfortable enough about this they will approach you; if they don't, they won't. End of story. I'm not saying you have to go back in the closet, (bit late now, anyway, isn't it?), just exercise a little bit of professional judgement. In an ideal world everyone could be out at work, but that is rarely the case. And really, what's wrong with making conversation about what was on TV the night before? As long as you don't go on about how the "lesbian" sub-plot on the *O.C.* is just a cover-up for the fact that all the male characters are secretly doing one another, you'll be fine. Maybe start with how dull things have been on *Jeopardy* since that waxy-faced Mormon left the show. I dunno—go buy a TV Guide and take it from there. Good luck, Taki; I think you're going to need it.

Much love,

Fred

P.S. If the "verbal abuse" really is that serious, you might want to send a letter to the Human Rights Commission, too—although if you're living in Alberta you might not get too terribly far, as bosses etc. have a way of "covering" themselves...

F.

Write to me, Dears

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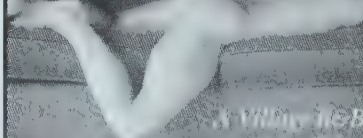
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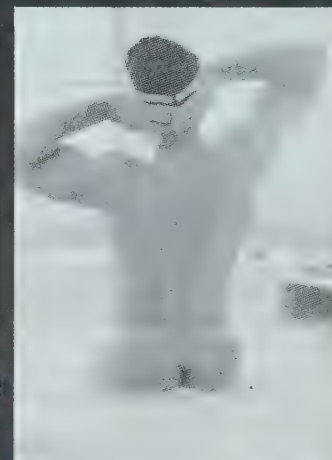
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The Eagle's Nest offers its guests rooms with private baths, breathtaking views and, weather permitting, the added bonus of seeing deer walking around the property. At just under 7,000 square feet, the Eagle's Nest boasts such amenities as WIFI wireless Internet connections, end-of-day (or any time of day) relaxation in a hot tub with view, and access to a beautiful billiards table. A safe is available for those travelling with valuables and laundry facilities are also provided for guest convenience. In the warmer months, the house is kept cool by air-conditioning—both a luxury and a necessity in a region that gets

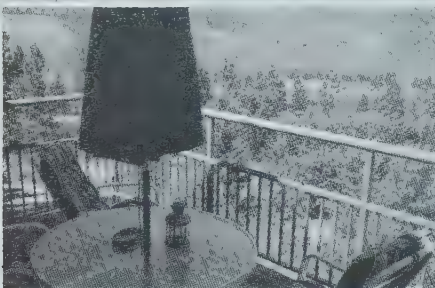
more sunshine per year than any other in Canada. The house itself is well appointed and filled with original artworks, a fine collection of swords, antique clocks and Persian carpets. A 1929 Desoto is also part of the owners' collection and is occasionally used for tours to the wineries. Despite the fact that the Eagle's Nest is situated in a beautiful woodland setting, it is also located in convenient

proximity to the Kelowna Airport and within walking distance to a park.

Hosts Gary and Allan Warren strive to ensure that every visitor they accommodate experiences their full hospitality and goes away with memories of their visit that will last a lifetime.

Pictured top right: The exterior of the Eagle's Nest B&B

Pictured above left: The breathtaking view from the Eagle's Nest balcony

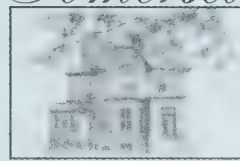


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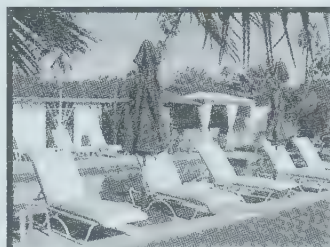
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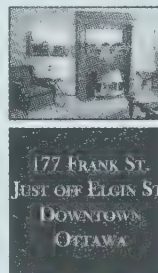
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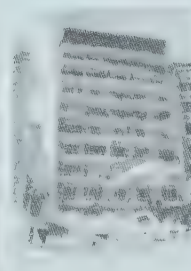
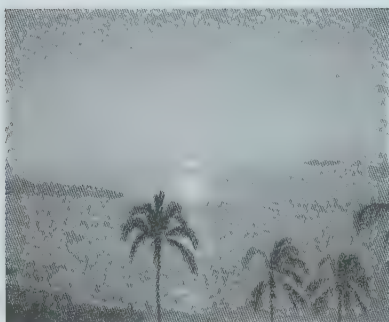
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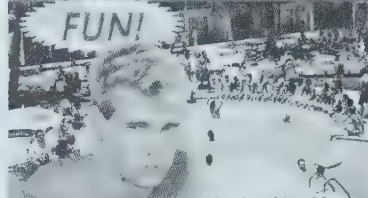
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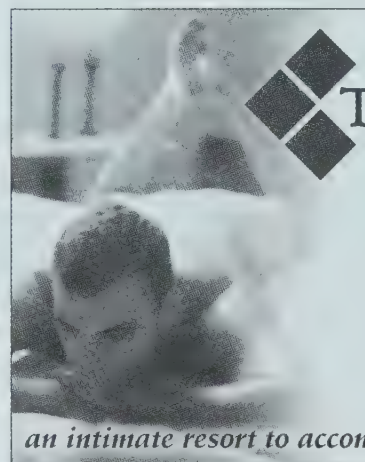


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ACT SNAPs up funds

By Shaun Proulx



Shutterbugs and poseurs alike—more than seven hundred of them—crammed Toronto's The Berkeley Church on March 3 for the fourth edition of SNAP! The photographic fundraiser for the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) has rapidly become one of the premiere highlights of the Toronto social season, as well as a much-needed event: more people in Toronto are living with HIV/AIDS than ever before.

Once more, SNAP! proved a multi-faceted event: a night to fundraise, schmooze and celebrate art and the emerging and established creatives behind it, all to the beats of DJ Sumasian. In doing so, SNAP! also solidified Toronto as a cornucopia of photographic talent. Sab Politowicz took top honours—the Jim Shea Memorial Award—for best overall submission: "Face Natural", with awards also given for best streetscape/photo journalism, best photo-based, best still life, best

landscape and best figurative. More than 300 submissions, ranging from the simple through the provocative and experimental, were received for the photographic competition of the event, an astonishing jump over previous years, noted judges Darren Alexander and P. Elaine Sharpe. Dozens of photos, from breathtaking to smile-inducing, were also available for bidding in a highly competitive, yet affordable, silent auction. However, it was the fifty-plus



pieces, curated by a four-member team and auctioned live, that caused the most serious bidding frenzies of the evening. (So much so that the auctioneer, at times, seemed a woman on the verge of whiplash!)

Next year, SNAP!

organizers may want to consider a new location. With hundreds pouring into The Berkeley Church to socialize in the two-level open concept space, the drone of heavy-duty chatting throughout the church often made it impossible for both auctioneer and auction participants to hear bids properly. SNAP! is now big enough that it needs a space with two distinct areas: one for yapping, one for buying. That is, however, a nice problem to have. Although final numbers are still being tabulated, Nick Rodrigue, ACT's manager of corporate sponsorships and donations, estimates the night raised a cool net amount of \$60,000.00.



Special mention must be made of the more than fifty volunteers who drive this event. And also of the best overheard line of the night (and there were many), courtesy of the two well-heeled lads standing caught in a bidding war for Lot 49, Clint McLean's magnetic "Urinals": "Listen, buddy, let me buy the damn thing I'll let you pee on me sometime".

Sold!

Shaun Proulx is a Toronto writer. He is the Publisher and Editor of *GayGuideToronto.com* and a feature contributor and columnist (*Cocktail Confessions*) with Xtra.

Photos from the SNAP! fundraiser (clockwise from far left): D&J 1749; Last Supper; Urinals; and Nude in Green Chair.

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By Lincoln Phillip

The spring line-up

Inspirational dressing never goes out of style, hence, the seasonal reports on trends, key items and must-haves from the world of fashion. Spring 2005 offers numerous styling options to combine in the latest looks, even if your budget doesn't allow you to play in the "ideal" world of designer fashion. Most of the key items acquired last spring will enhance this season's trends, so unpack your white blazer, argyle cotton sweaters, distressed jeans, bold striped dress shirts, slim-cut suits, khaki pants, cotton blazers and military bush jackets.

Once you've got these basics in hand, you'll have many of the elements necessary to create season-appropriate looks. Some of the key trends for Spring/Summer 2005 include: 'nautical' (think Jean Paul Gaultier and Helmut Lang); all-white (think Gucci or "angelic"—how much more inspiration does one need?); 'officer and a gentleman in India' (think Roberto Cavalli, Costume National or Yves Saint Laurent Rive Gauche); pattern mixing (think Etro, Miu Miu or Paul Smith); the 'new preppy' (think Perry Ellis, Michael Kors and D Squared); colour blocking (think Burberry Prorsum or Versace); 'Kennedy era' (think Jil Sander, Prada and Hugo Boss).

In order to establish these looks for the season, you must own the following ten items, which can be used quite effectively in conjunction with the "basics" as previously mentioned.

The polo shirt: essential to the new preppy look, almost everyone is doing a version of this tennis classic. Leaders of the pack include: Lacoste, Le Tigre, Z Brand, Polo Ralph Lauren, and D&G.

WHITE JEANS OR PANTS

These are the main staple for summer dressing. Pair them with a white blazer or bright colours for a fresh, fun look in the warm(er) months.

PRINTED SHIRT

Pattern mixing is a key trend, but approach this one with caution or you could end up looking like a "Ringling Brothers drive-by". The trick is to always layer with something solid in one of the key colours to establish balance your mix of stripes with polka dots or a pattern.

BOLDLY COLOURED SWEATERS OR T-SHIRTS

Colour is big again, so don't be afraid to experiment by mixing a bright colour on top with a complementary hue on the bottom. Again, do your utmost to employ good judgement!

HORIZONTALLY STRIPED JERSEYS OR T-SHIRTS

This element fits in well with a nautical or preppy look; options here are varied: you can go traditional with navy and white or make a combo "pop" with bold colours.

BERMUDA/TENNIS SHORTS

Summer marks the time to bare those legs with a classic Bermuda-cut short. For those who love showing a bit more skin, seek out a sexy tennis short—another great hot-weather standby.

PRISTINE, DEEP INDIGO DENIM JEANS

Raw denim returns as an alternative to "casual" dress-up when paired with a

blazer. The present leader of "virginal" denim is Nudie, a genius jean line from Japan.

THE ZIP-UP JACKET

Also known as a "Harrington", this outerwear staple comes in various styles and will complement any look you want to achieve. Some updated jackets feature more current, trend-conscious touches such as military details, contrast stitching and tone-on-tone binding.

THE CARDIGAN

This classic, one-time wardrobe staple makes another appearance in button form. Choose one with either a high gorge (almost Mandarin-style) for dressier looks or the classic low V-neck option with a tank top or bare chest, the later giving the wearer a sexier, less "Mr. Rogers" look.

DENIM BLAZER

Just like its white "cousin", the denim blazer is a great (and very functional) addition to your warm weather wardrobe, offering a casual but complete option for both day- and nighttime dress. ▼

Clothing shown in this feature is from both Smyth & Kang (1020 17th Ave. S.W.) and Holt Renfrew in Calgary. Many thanks to these retailers for helping to make this happen.



Black zip up jacket: Dekker, White jeans: John Varvatos, Navy cardigan: Armani Collezione, Pink deep V-neck t-shirt: Bertoni, White shirt: Dekker, Blue vest: Full Circle, Printed zip-up: Full Circle, Grey pants: Kenneth Cole, Grey and yellow stripe shirt: Kenneth Cole, Green V-neck: Kenneth Cole, Pinstripe pants: Kenneth Cole, Black cotton blazer: Dekker



Navy jacket with screened flowers: Yo Japan, Long sleeve t-shirt: Dekker, Distressed jeans: 1921, Silk screen t-shirt: Chip and Pepper, Khaki jacket: Fire Trap, Striped polo: Yo Japan, Faded jeans: True Religion, Denim blazer: Paul Smith Jeans, Printed shirt: Kenneth Cole, Black pants: Kenneth Cole, Stripe shirt: Dekker, Black V-neck: Kenneth Cole,



Blue polo: Dekker, Striped polo: D&G, Orange polo: Dekker, Plaid shirt: Nudie Jeans, Khaki pants: Dekker, Stripe sweater: Firetrap, Cotton blazer with hoodie: Full Circle, White jeans: John Varvatos, Yellow V-neck sweater: Fred Perry, Green shirt: Dekker, Jeans: Nudie, Pink polo: Lacoste, Purple polo: Le Tigre, Khaki Jacket: Full Circle

ACCESSORIES

To complete a look, you always need to accessorize. This season, it's all about being the perfect gentleman, a return to an era when dressing up was the norm, not an option. Some of the hottest (gentle)manly touches include:

THE FEDORA

Top off your look with the hat of the season, think Prada or Justin Timberlake as the Mad Hatter behind this trend.

THE POCKET SQUARE

The best way to add some colour to any of your suits is with this simple little piece of silk. Show your flare with a pout, triangular points or a straight-edged square.

THE 'SKINNY' TIE

The look of the Kennedy era won't be complete without a skinny tie. The slim tie looks great with or without the company of a jacket.

WHITE OR TWO-TONE SPECTATOR SHOES

Everyone is toeing the line of the geriatric set this summer. White shoes best completes all-white dressing, or add some pop to a dark pair of pants.

THE BOUTONNIERE

This gentlemanly touch is big in Italy this season. Whether you choose to adorn your lapel with a fresh red rose like the late Pierre Elliot Trudeau, or go artificial as shown on the runways of John Richmond, Emporio Armani and Prada's whimsical toy shapes. Either way, decorating your lapel shows a little class and sophistication.

THE 'FLASHY' BILLFOLD

Carry your cash in something fun for the summer. J Fold wallets come in a variety of coloured leathers and reflect a more sporty flavour than the usual brown or black.

Lincoln Phillip is a writer in pursuit of promoting those who bring beauty into the world. He contributes style-related topics to many magazines, and collaborates with Calgary's leading design firms. This style maven hopes to one day have lunch with Anna Wintour.



REVIEW

By David Christie



Very few celebs can make me tolerate that dreary hack Jay Leno, but when I found out that Scissor Sisters were scheduled to do his show, they suddenly appeared on my very exclusive list. As expected, they were brilliant—although one has to wonder what middle (and lower) America thought of their ultra-fabulous antics as showcased in the “vast wasteland” of network TV. I was entranced by their performance—and then thrilled to distraction when their concert DVD *We Are Scissor Sisters And So Are You...* arrived in the mail the very next day.

Aside from the odd Gay.com feature or brief magazine article, I really wasn't that well acquainted with this group, which sprang fully-grown from the New York club scene's long-dry loins. Thanks to the DVD, after seeing it I learned more than I even knew I wanted to, and now I want more.

Think anyone would bankroll a reality series?

We Are Scissor Sisters... contains a full collection of their videos as well as some fairly tasty “extras”, including what appears to be an off-the-cuff video bio narrated by resident diva Ana Matronic. Song access (both live and video) is simple and efficiently structured, and the intro montages are a divine little slice of gay psychedelia (menu options are launched by various band members sashaying through a cloud of animated white butterflies). However, the concert portion of this DVD is truly its biggest draw. For those who like S.S.' music fresh from the studio, this performance will be a revelation—not to mention a confirmation of why the group captured their attention in the first place. In the music industry today, certain acts are able to maintain the illusion of greatness only for those who *haven't* seen them perform alive. Scissor Sisters is the exact opposite of this, succeeding even more spectacularly in a concert setting than their recorded work could ever have indicated.

In this regard, much of the credit is due Jake Shears, the campy scamp who fronts the band and is responsible for the lion's share of vocals. Capering around the stage with boundless energy, Shears demonstrates how intensely talented a showman he is, and the brilliance of his live performance remains undiminished for the duration of the show. There's a bravado to his stage persona that puts one in mind of a young Mick Jagger or the late Freddie Mercury; Tom Jones, even, to a certain extent—it's no wonder that the Brits have fallen so helplessly at his feet. Credit must also go to Ana Matronic, Shears' partner-in-crime on vocals and in the spotlight. Despite a somewhat diminished role in the grand scheme of the band (that's not a dig: Jesus himself would appear diminished next to Jake Shears), Matronic is a big, gorgeous girl who, like all great frames, makes the main piece of art look all the more fabulous.

Overall, I can honestly say that this is one of the first concert DVDs I've seen in a long time that truly captures the raw excitement of a live performance. The venue in this case (the spectacular Brighton Dome in Brighton Beach—UK, not USA) contributes greatly to the overall feel of the show, allowing the camera crew greater access to the sweaty, screaming and very appreciative audience. Unlike those filmed in stadiums, this concert *manages* to convey the intimacy and mutual admiration that exists between the band and its fans, and goes a long way in making the small screen experience so much bigger than physical and technological limitations generally allow. The audience's reaction to hits such as Laura and Filthy/Gorgeous is a thrill to witness, and the frenzy induced by Shears' first encore appearance actually gave me goosebumps—all seven times I watched it.

From a production standpoint, *We Are Scissor Sisters...* also holds its own against most—if not all—competitors. Beautifully shot and artfully edited, this DVD delivers much more than concert footage, it offers a unique and intense musical experience, a fantastic blend of cabaret, performance art, burlesque and vaudeville all rolled into one. The appearance of Scissor Sisters on the music scene is a welcome one, indeed, as it marks the first time in a long while a group has captured the crossover spirit and spark of '80s art-rock bands such as the B-52s and, to some extent, the Talking Heads. Far from “retro”, Scissor Sisters provide an experience that is at once of the moment and yet somehow manages to push the frontier forward. Highly recommended for fans and non-fans alike.

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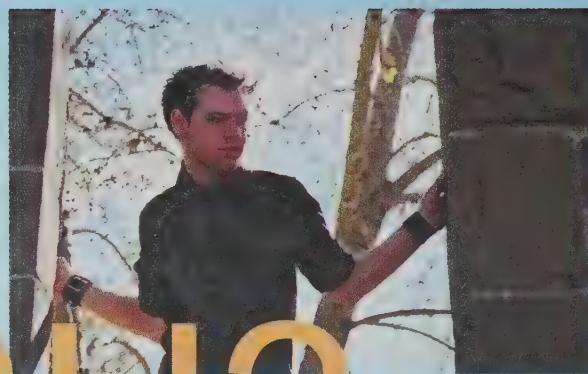
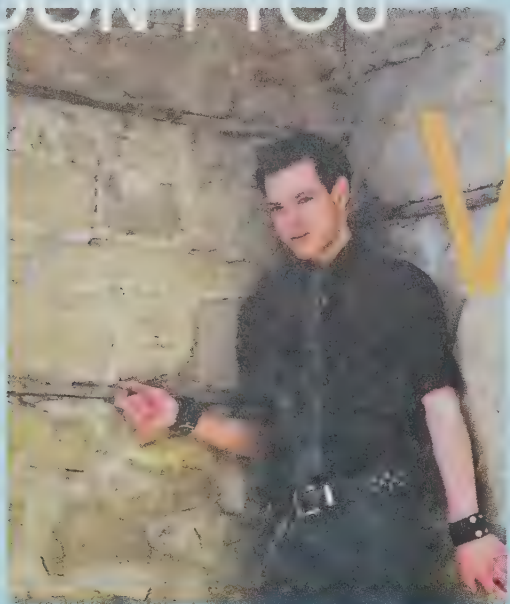
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Photographed by Grant Locki

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ONE DOLLAR



There will be no April fools this month because Pluto, the planet of transformation, will make sterling aspects to the Sun and Venus. Events will conspire to deliver anything your heart desires—and I mean *anything* and *everything*. Avoid heartburn by prioritizing; you simply can't handle it all at once. Hmm or can you...?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Set your course full speed ahead this April. Gay Rams will want to finally launch a few pet projects that have been gathering dust, and your timing could not be better as Pluto tickles Sun and Venus. Although you may face a few surprises and things may not be as easy as they first appear, you will be poised for accomplishments and accolades. Catch the wave and hang eleven...er, ten!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Who is that mysterious stranger? Someone behind the scenes will make your life a bit more exciting (for good and otherwise) all through April. This imp will try to unsettle, surprise and possibly seduce you—will you be fodder for the gossip mill? Oh, why not?! Go with the flow of Pluto, Sun and Venus and mix business with pleasure. Will you be shaken or stirred?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Several well-placed sources are saying that you'll be the hit of the social scene this April, as Pluto, Sun and Venus give you personality plus. Ah, some things never change! Gather the troops and go camping, pink Twin—and don't forget to include your better half. Partners will tend to feel left out if you don't shower them with attention. It won't take much, just a sugar sprinkle or two.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Balance at work can be achieved so that minor efforts have maximum results. At least that is how you can play it this April when Pluto, Sun and Venus float your corporate yacht. Gay Crabs should rise to the task no matter how distasteful it may be (use your oil to grease the big wheels). Before you know it, there will be someone ready to grease your wheel. Lucky thing!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Frivolous, airy pastimes will catapult you into the global arena in April. Therefore, proud Lions should get out there and pursue anything that tickles their gay fancy, from art to dance to theatre. Travel is also broadening, especially internationally, but if funds and time are tight, then spread your influence in other ways. What about launching your own website? Nude streaming optional...

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Turn up the heat at home and watch how things can cook. April will deliver contentment and resolution to those queer Virgins who get more involved in their domestic affairs. First, spruce up your space with new colours and furniture. Then plan more get-togethers and add a few new faces to your newly gilded pad. Who knows what can happen when you kiss a few frogs?

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Your innate diplomacy will work wonders this April as Pluto, Sun and Venus add a bit of sugar and power to your communication. Use it well and wisely, especially in any one-to-one relationship. Issues can be handled deftly as you make partners believe that they are being heard and their opinions are being taken seriously. Is that really true? As long as they *think* so...

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

If money has been a source of stress, welcome April's Pluto, Sun and Venus trine. Gay Scorp will find a pot of gold at the end of their rainbow (at least that's what you'll be led to believe). Truth is that there is someone making your life a little easier and quite a bit more profitable. Please remember the little people who made your empire possible as you wave to them from your limo.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Everybody will want a piece of you this April, and Pluto, Sun and Venus will create opportunities for queer Archers to make a big splash in every social swim. New acquaintances will vie for your attention and affection. As the month progresses, new romances can result from the most unlikely scenarios, in the most unlikely places and with the most unlikely folks. And that is very likely.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

What magic can you conjure in the happy confines of your home this April? Pink Caps will be inspired to make their personal surroundings more mysterious, creative and just plain comfortable. Surprises are in store for those who take a chance on something completely different. How different? Feast your eyes on that new hot-pink leather couch. That should do the trick!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Major changes will be in store with anything having to do with large groups of pals. Aqueerians are prone to excess and now, as Pluto, Sun and Venus trine through April, mere excess is never enough. Even simple plans will seem to morph into Wilde and wooly adventures, so take charge of your social calendar and expose yourself to new special-interest groups. Feel a draft...?

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Years of hard work will appear to all be worth it through April as professional oomph translates into mo' money. Lucky Guppies should reap their just rewards while Pluto, Sun and Venus deliver the bounty. And, if you plan it carefully, your largesse can last more than the month. Save, invest and don't be wasteful so you won't have to swim upstream for any more gifts from the gods.

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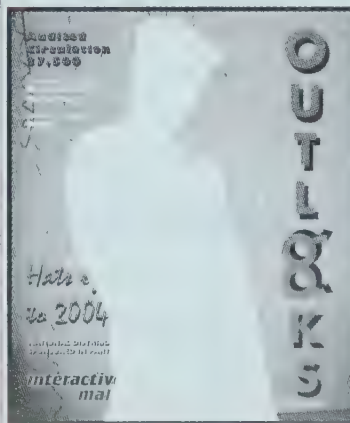
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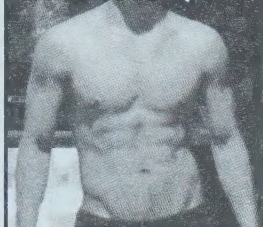
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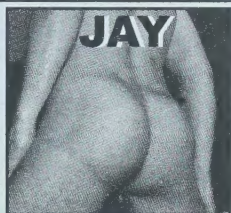
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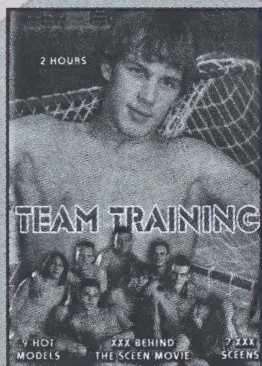
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Team Training

From: Ayor Studios



Raw Recruits

From: Eurocreme



Featuring: Adam Kubick, Joseph Ther, Julian Benet, Johan Volny, Ernesto Jordan, Chad Driver, Martin Nowotny, Devon Donis

Running Time: 120 minutes

When the soccer team in this film shows up for practice, you can tell immediately that every single one of the young twenty-something athletes is in great physical shape. In the locker room, they quickly strip down to their sexy, tight underwear and then don their soccer gear at a leisurely pace. Julian Benet has difficulty finding his shorts and then even more trouble finding his jersey. Showing off his perfect body seems more important to him than dressing for the workout and his teammates tease him that he must be used to having his mother dress him! Julian protests that he just needs a few moments, and this prompts two other team members to start showing off and bragging about size, which causes a stir amongst the whole team. Very soon it's obvious that Devin Donis will win this particular contest.

One team member is missing but everyone agrees that Joseph Ther is always late—could he be the shy one? As he is tardy, the practice has to begin one person short, and the rest of the guys will have to cover for Joseph until he arrives.

After practice, Julian and Johnny end up alone in the gym. Although Julian wants to go for a beer it is very clear that Johnny has other plans for them before they join the team again. In these circumstances, Julian definitely doesn't need his mother's help to undress and Johnny knows exactly how to lend a hand. Size is also no contest between these two equally well-hung studs.

Back in the locker room, two more teammates are comparing their "attributes",

Featuring: Dion Phillips, Jay Renfro, Paul Rover, Chris Cloony, Mateo Saray, Samuel Dolce, Denis Taylor, Sanchez Viva, Rico Sura, Kristian Hoods, Robbie Masters, Ted Clark

Running Time: 105 minutes

Military exercises in the woods are a must for these hunky Czech Republic soldiers who work hard every day to stay in shape so they are ready for action. Private Soloviev is with the Russian army on an exchange visit and he soon discovers that the differences between the Russian army and the Czech militia can be quite enjoyable! He's used to the hard training but not the hot action that seems to follow all military exercises.

When four Czech soldiers hit the dormitory they have more than just rest on their minds. After their workout in the woods, it's time for a different workout on their bunkbeds. Young blond Denis Taylor is eager to show off a perfect ten to Kristian, a stud with long dark hair. The two grab the top bunk and soon realize that Kristian needs a lot of headroom in order to go down on Denis Taylor's massive erection. Down below, Dion and his companion Robbie make the best of their cramped space, their long strokes offering relief from the stresses of a hard day.

Elsewhere, in another dormitory, Mateo enjoys a bit of dancing as his personal stress relief. He has all the right moves and a very agile, lean physique. Not surprisingly, he is soon joined by Samuel, who admires this display of muscle in motion and can't keep his hands off Mateo. As they dance together, the pair demonstrates that hot Latin lovers know more than just how to tango when the spirit moves them.

which leads to a hot bench press that is not part of the regular workout. Martin and Joseph get to know each other with a mutual hand job that ends their practice session perfectly.

Meanwhile, Ernesto is going solo in the shower and one has to wonder why he is all alone—he has two hands full with room for a third! However, once he's showered and dried it isn't very long before Julian joins him to see who can win a private bet. Their game of ping-pong leaves Ernesto the winner, scoring the most points—and a little extra as well!

Throughout the film, Julian slowly works his way around the whole team, and each player enjoys (at very least) a special massage. Team Training proves that, in sport, it's not who wins or loses, it's about how you play the "game".

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RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Not all the troops are Czech and this is truly an international unit. Sanchez is a tall, dark officer and a gentleman. When there is a knock on his private bedroom door, he politely welcomes a young blond cadet into his room. Jay Renfro needs a signature but Sanchez quickly gives him more than he asked for—much more! Jay appreciates just how big an offer Sanchez is making and follows his orders explicitly, obliging his superior with a hungry mouth that was just waiting to be filled.

At the end of the day, each of the soldiers finds satisfaction and relaxation together, regardless of race, rank or sexual preference. Who said life in the army was only about playing with "real" guns and following "official" orders? As *Raw Recruits* demonstrates, the rules of this military camp are not so hard to follow.

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Outlooks has two DVD copies of *Raw Recruits* to give away. Just e-mail main@outlooks.ca and tell us the nationality of the army featured in this movie. Winners will be chosen from the first two correct answers we receive.

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

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The Man's On Fire!
DJ Luc Raymond heats up the turntable and the dancefloor at the debut of Luxure/Lust, Montréal's latest must-see place to be.

Cheshire grin
Tracy Trash seems to be in very good spirits, indeed... although it could just be because sexy Ben is in such close proximity.

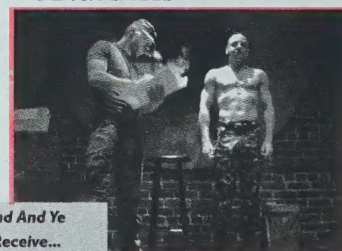
CABARET MADO CABARET MADO



Hmmm—I Feel A Bit Underdressed
Jean-François takes stock of the sartorial situation at Cabaret Mado

Allure Is All In The Eyes, My Dears!
Mado (left) and Miklos demonstrate just why they are the enchantresses to beat all enchantresses. Good hair helps, too...

FETISH SHOW BLACK EAGLE



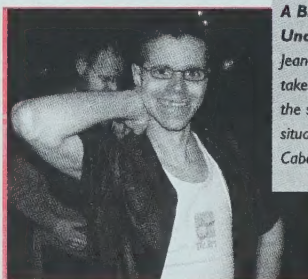
Demand And Ye Shall Receive...
A 'corporal' puts a 'soldier' through his paces. Dunno about Bush, but we think guys in the military are kind of hot!

DIVINE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY PARKING

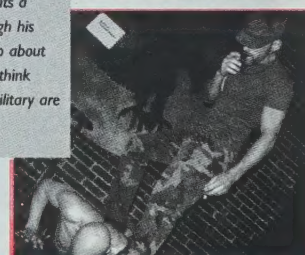


You Wear It Well, Darling
Montréal's own Divine (left) celebrates another year of fabulousness with friends Greg, Miklos and Mary Kay.

I'll See If I Have Happy Birthday On Vinyl
DJ Patrick Dream seems more than happy to accommodate any request at Divine's birthday fête.



All photos this page by Daniel Caouette



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